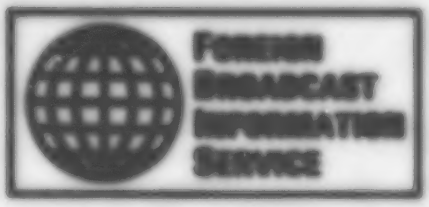

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Near East & South Asia

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Inter-Arab Affairs

Gulf States Move To Coordinate With Turkey

PM0112153492 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 2 Dec 92 pp 1, 4

[George Sam'an report: "Gulf Movement Toward Turkey To Establish Balance With Iran and Israel"]

[Excerpts] Moscow—A Gulf official has revealed that Gulf-Turkish coordination has made long strides within the framework of a [Gulf] Cooperation Council [GCC] policy designed to prompt Ankara to play a bigger Islamic role, establishing a balance with Iran's role in the region and compensating the Arabs for some of what they have lost due to the absence of Iraq's power at the Gulf and Middle East levels.

The official pointed out that one of the aims of this move is also to keep Iraq unified so that it will remain a source of concern and a factor of psychological pressure on Israel in the peace negotiations. Another aim is to bring Turkey and Syria closer to one another in preparation for moving Damascus away from Tehran. The official said that the policy of coordinating with Ankara facilitates Iran's preoccupation with its eastern and northern gateways.

The official said that, when the Arabs in general and the Gulf [states] in particular unanimously agreed to support the United Arab Emirates' position in its dispute with Iran over the three occupied islands, Tehran—as is usually done in such circumstances—found no method except that of attacking the Arabs, accusing them of fabricating a crisis with it to conceal their inability to confront Israel in the peace negotiations, or accusing the Gulf [states] of planning with the West or facilitating its attempts to hit, besiege, or topple the Islamic republic.

But actually this is not the GCC states' policy toward Iran. Gulf officials describe these accusations as something for local consumption designed to intercept Iranian hardliners and prompt people to rally around Hashemi-Rafsanjani's leadership.

The same source revealed that on more than one occasion his country has raised with Iranian officials the subject of the open lines between the Islamic republic and the Hebrew state, but the "Israel issue" continues to be a basis for non-agreement over the Arabs in general and the Gulf [states] in particular. [passage omitted]

The Gulf official revealed that Gulf-Turkish coordination has made great strides, and he expected Ankara not to agree to an extension for the presence of the Western forces protecting Iraqi Kurdistan when its period of presence terminates. The official pointed out that the recent tripartite talks among Turkey, Syria, and Iran on the future of Iraqi conditions left a feeling of satisfaction, even though the United States fears Tehran's role in this connection, or it had no prior knowledge of these talks. [sentence as published]

Thus the Gulf [states], the official said, bitterly realize that the Sunni Arabs' rule or role in Baghdad is finished, but they are not prepared to accept that a group of Iraqi society should monopolize power at the others' expense. And they believe that the ultimate solution for that country—after everything it has experienced—could not be put right in the end except within the framework of a federation that does not threaten its unity.

The Gulf official emphasized that Turkey will soon endeavor to resolve the Armenian-Azerbaijani dispute over Nagorno-Karabakh—which will divert Tehran's attention to that region, worry it, and keep it away from the Gulf.

The official pointed out that relations between Damascus and Ankara are progressing and improving rapidly, emphasizing that Syria has actually closed its border with Turkey to Kurdish fighters. The official believes that such progress between the two countries facilitates for the Arabs the task of moving Syria away from Iran and makes Ankara a principal player or a balance element in the multilateral negotiations, especially with regard to the water aspect, so that Israel will not remain the sole or the strongest player.

According to the Gulf official, the aim of this Gulf policy is to prompt Turkey to play an Islamic role establishing a balance with Iran's role in the Gulf and compensating the Arabs for some of what they have lost due to the absence of Iraq's power at the Gulf and Middle East levels with regard to Israel. All this also involves coordination with Egypt, in order to benefit from its size, power, role, and status in the Arab and Islamic worlds, and from its international standing too.

And the aim of coordination with Syria and Turkey over the Iraq issue is—first and foremost—to keep that country united, even if the present situation remains as it is, so that it will be a source of concern and perhaps a factor of psychological pressure on Israel in its negotiations with the other Arabs. [passage omitted]

Islamic Affairs

Islamic Conference Meeting on Bosnia Concludes

Final Statement Issued

LD0112161592 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 0830 GMT 1 Dec 92

[Text] Jeddah, 1 Dec (SPA)—The 6th extraordinary conference of Islamic Foreign Ministers has issued a final statement at the end of its work. Here follows the text:

1. At the noble invitation of the custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd Bin 'Abd-al-Aziz al Sa'ud, the sixth extraordinary session of the conference of Islamic Foreign Ministers was held in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia from 7-8 Jumada Al-Akhirah 1413 AH, corresponding to 1 to 2 December 1992, in order to study the situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

II. The following member states took part: the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, the Republic of Azerbaijan, Afghanistan, the United Arab Emirates, the Republic of Indonesia, the Republic of Uganda, the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, the State of Bahrain, the Sultanate of Brunei, Dar es Salaam, Burkina Faso, the People's Republic of Bangladesh, the Republic of Benin, the Republic of Turkey, the Republic of Chad, the Republic of Tunisia, the Republic of Gabon, the Republic of Gambia, the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria, the Federal Islamic Republic of Comoros, the Republic of Djibouti, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the Republic of Senegal, the Arab Republic of Syria, the Republic of Sierra Leone, the Republic of Somalia, the Sultanate of Oman, the Republic of Guinea, the state of Palestine, the State of Qatar, the Republic of Tajikistan, the Republic of Cameroon, the State of Kuwait, the Republic of Lebanon, the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah, the Republic of the Maldives, the Republic of Mali, Malaysia, the Arab Republic of Egypt, the Kingdom of Morocco, the Islamic Republic of Mauritania, the Republic of Niger, the Federal Republic of Nigeria, the Republic of Yemen, Zanzibar/United Republic of Tanzania, the Republic of Albania, and the Republic of Kyrgyzstan.

A. Observers:

1. States:

Mozambique

2. Islamic Groups:

Al-Jama'at, Al-Islamiyah, the Turkish Cypriot sect, the Moro

National Liberation Front

3. International and Regional Organizations:

The United Nations, the Nonaligned Movement, the Arab League

B. Specialist Agencies

The Islamic Development Bank, the International Committee of

the Red Crescent

C. Islamic Institutions and Societies:

1. The Islamic World League.

D. Invited Parties:

1. The Republic of Bosnia-Hercegovina.

2. The Republic of Slovenia.

3. The Republic of Croatia.

4. The Republic of Macedonia.

5. Kosovo.

6. Sandzak.

7. The UN commission for refugees affairs.

8. The WHO.

9. The International Committee for the Red Cross.

10. The Gulf Cooperation Council.

E. Guests:

1. Lord David Owen, co-chairman of the London international conference on former Yugoslavia.

2. Dr. Farid Qurshi, coordinator of Islamic bodies in charge of humanitarian aid to Bosnia-Hercegovina.

III. The conference was opened by King Fahd Bin 'Abd-al-Aziz Al Su'ud, the custodian of the two holy mosques and monarch of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. He welcomed the participants to their second country, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, and besought God to grant their proceedings success and wished them luck in their efforts to lend support to the oppressed and helpless people of Bosnia-Hercegovina. He furthermore emphasized the need to muster efforts to implement the resolution which was issued by the London conference on former Yugoslavia and asserted the need for securing the arrival of humanitarian aid through the UN to the citizens of Bosnia-Hercegovina, given the deterioration of their daily life. He spoke about the efforts being exerted by the UN, stressing the support of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for all the resolutions issued by the Security Council, the latest of which was Resolution 787 which provides for the tightening of the embargo imposed on Serbia and Montenegro because of their continued aggression against the Republic of Bosnia-Hercegovina. He said that the achievement of justice dictates the enabling of the Republic of Bosnia-Hercegovina to acquire the weapons which it needs for the legitimate defense of its existence. He confirmed the support and backing of all the efforts being exerted to find a just and comprehensive solution to the Palestinian problem on the basis of UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338.

In addition, the custodian of the two holy mosques raised the issue of the deteriorating situation in Somalia and called for intensified efforts to provide assistance to this fraternal people. He praised the successful efforts being exerted by the ICO secretary general and those working with him, and the noble efforts being exerted by Cyrus Vance and Lord David Owen in their capacity as co- chairmen of the international conference on former Yugoslavia.

IV. His Excellency President Izetbegovic of Bosnia-Hercegovina spoke and expressed his gratitude for the firm support by the ICO for the struggle being waged by the government of Bosnia-Hercegovina and its people in resisting the Serbian aggression. He also acquainted the participants with developments in the situation in his country.

His Excellency Sali Berisha, the Albanian president, delivered a speech at the conference in which he highlighted the importance accorded by the Albanian Government and its people to the ICO, which Albania wishes to join as a full member. Additionally, the conference reviewed the current situation in the Balkans and especially the present explosive situation in Kosovo, Sandzak, and Macedonia.

VI. Afterward, the conference elected His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, the Saudi foreign minister, chairman of the ICO foreign ministers sixth extraordinary session.

VII. His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal made a speech in which he highlighted the dimensions of the tragedy experienced by Bosnia-Hercegovina. He pointed out that despite the fact that the UN Security Council had issued various resolutions regarding the situation in Bosnia-Hercegovina which called for the imposition of sanctions against Serbia and Montenegro, and stipulated a military air embargo on Bosnia-Hercegovina, these resolutions, however, did not yield the required results, especially in the light of what had been confirmed by recent reports on the continuation of the delivery of weapons and oil to Serbia and Montenegro—a matter that consolidates its military capabilities and its continuous support for the belligerent Serbian forces in Bosnia-Hercegovina.

He called for the full implementation of the articles of Chapter 7 of the UN Charter, including Article 42, to force Serbia and the government of Belgrade to comply with the UN Security Council resolutions issued in this context. He also appealed to the international community to provide every possible support to enable the Republic of Bosnia-Hercegovina to exercise its legitimate right to self-defense in accordance with Article 51 of the UN Charter.

He called on the international community to stand firmly against the abominable ethnic tendency and consider standing up to the Serbian aggression as a joint international responsibility in the defense of justice, principles of human rights, and international legitimacy. He recalled that despite the ugly nature of the tragedy of the people of Bosnia-Hercegovina, we have not forgotten for a single minute the tragedy of the Palestinian people. He stressed the support and backing for all the efforts that are being made to achieve the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people and find a just, comprehensive, and permanent solution to the Palestinian cause in accordance with UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338.

VIII. The conference listened to the message of His Excellency Abdou Diouf, president of the Republic of Senegal and chairman of the sixth Islamic summit, which was read by His Excellency Djibo Ka, the foreign minister of the Republic of Senegal. In the message, President Abdou Diouf extended his thanks to the custodian of the two holy mosques for hosting the sixth extraordinary session of the ICO foreign ministers meeting in order to coordinate the efforts of the member-states which aim to bring an end to Serbian aggression against the Republic of Bosnia-Hercegovina.

IX. His Excellency Dr. Hamid al-Gabid, the ICO secretary general, delivered a speech in which he reviewed the situation in Bosnia- Hercegovina and spoke about ICO moves and activities to support the just struggle of the government and people of Bosnia-Hercegovina against Serbian aggression.

Also, the ICO secretary general reaffirmed the organization's firm support for the Palestinian people in their struggle to establish their national and inalienable rights. He expressed regret over the acts of repression and the crimes perpetrated by Israel against the people of Palestine and the Arab inhabitants of the occupied territories and over repeated Israeli aggression against southern Lebanon. Finally, he stressed the need for propelling forward the current Middle East peace process.

X. Following that, the conference decided to consider the speeches of the custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd Bin 'Abd Al-'Aziz, and Abdou Diouf, president of the Republic of Senegal and chairman of the sixth Islamic summit, as two official documents. XI. The conference adopted the agenda in Document No. EX-ICFM.DA.1/REV.2 and their excellences the heads of the Senegalese, Indonesian, and Palestinian delegations were elected vice chairmen, while his excellency the head of the Turkish delegation was appointed rapporteur.

XII. The conference approved the applications of the republics of Albania, Kyrgyzstan, Zanzibar, and Tajikistan for ICO membership.

XIII. In the general debate the conference strongly denounced the Serbian aggression against the Republic of Bosnia-Hercegovina and the Republic of Croatia, and the noncompliance by Serbia and Montenegro and the irregular forces with the relevant international resolutions. It also denounced strongly the violation of the human rights of the people of Bosnia-Hercegovina in a flagrant and comprehensive manner. It described the policy of "ethnic cleansing" being pursued by the Serbs, and their forcing of Muslims and Croats to flee their homes, as actual open genocide operations against mankind.

XIV. It confirmed its adherence to the establishment of peace in the Republic of Bosnia-Hercegovina in accordance with the resolutions issued by the United Nations and the preservation of its unity, sovereignty, political independence, and territorial integrity, and confirmed the principles of the inadmissibility of the invasion of territory by force and the right of Bosnian refugees to return to their homes safely in dignity and pride.

It confirmed anew the natural right of the Republic of Bosnia- Hercegovina to self-defense in an individual and collective manner in accordance with the provisions of Article 51 of Chapter 7 of the UN Charter.

XV. It furthermore urged member-states to cooperate with the Republic of Bosnia-Hercegovina in order to allow it to exercise its right to self-defense, individually or collectively, in accordance with Chapter 52 of the UN Charter; it also urged the Security Council to review before 15 January 1993 the situation in Bosnia- Hercegovina and the implementation of relevant resolutions, including Resolution 752, and the progress of he implementation of the commitments which were reached at the international conference of former Yugoslavia—"The London Conference."

The ICO coordination team has been entrusted with the follow up of the matter with the UN Security Council and the proposing to the member-states of any further measures which the ICO and member states might take in response requests by the Republic of Bosnia- Hercegovina in accordance with Chapter 52 of the UN Charter.

XVI. The conference also called on the UN Security Council to announce clearly and unequivocally that Resolution 813, which bans the supply of arms to the former Yugoslavia, does not apply to the Republic of Bosnia-Hercegovina and to allow the republic immediately to receive defensive weapons supplied by member-states. It called on these states to reiterate to the secretary general and the Security Council their readiness to contribute to providing the necessary financial and human resources for implementing UN Security Council resolutions so as to bring peace to all parts of Bosnia-Hercegovina.

XVII. The conference asked the UN Security Council to take all necessary measures immediately against Serbia and Montenegro, including the use of force, to implement Article 52 of Chapter VII of the UN Charter as a guarantee for its full commitment to related resolutions, particularly Resolutions 752 and 757, in addition to confronting and repelling other acts of foreign aggression against the Republic of Bosnia-Hercegovina.

It also asked the UN Security Council to guarantee active implementation of its resolutions relating to the banning of military aircraft from the airspace of Bosnia-Hercegovina and also to deploy UN forces along the Bosnia-Serbia and Bosnia-Montenegro borders to monitor and prevent the arrival of any direct or indirect aid for the Serbian military or paramilitary.

XVIII. The conference expressed regret over the violation of the full and binding sanctions imposed by the UN Security Council on Serbia and Montenegro, urged the Security Council to take active measures to reinforce these sanctions and called on the member- states to take the necessary measures, individually and collectively, in accordance with the UN Charter.

XIX. In this context the conference declared its support for the current UN efforts to secure the arrival of humanitarian aid to the people of Bosnia-Hercegovina. It urged the United Nations and other international organizations to quickly look into the setting up of secure zones in close coordination with all the parties concerned with the humanitarian efforts under way in Bosnia-Hercegovina to convey the aid supplies by land convoys and airlifts, taking into account that nothing should be done likely to encourage the Serbian ethnic-cleansing policy. The conference called for the reopening of the airports under the control of the government of Bosnia-Hercegovina, especially the airports of Tuzla and Bihac, in order to facilitate the arrival of humanitarian aid, including supplying it by parachute from the air.

XX. The conference urged the international conference on former Yugoslavia, the EC, the CSCE, NATO, the Western Europe Union, and all the concerned parties to intensify efforts to bring about peace in the Republic of Bosnia-Hercegovina, and to act quickly and effectively to face up to the Serbian schemes aimed at altering the demographic structure of Bosnia-Hercegovina.

The conference pointed out that the Government of Bosnia- Hercegovina had agreed to the constitutional principles proposed by the cochairmen of the Geneva conference concerning former Yugoslavia, and it underlined the need for achieving a quick democratic settlement.

XXI. The conference warned the Serbian command in Belgrade and Bosnia-Hercegovina, and anyone perpetrating or ordering human rights violations that they will personally bear the consequences of such violations, and that they may be punished for their war crimes in accordance with the Geneva conventions. The conference also called for the setting up of an international court for war crimes to try and punish anyone convicted of perpetration of crimes against mankind and war crimes.

XXII. The conference urged the Security Council to quickly act for closing down all the concentration and detention camps set up by the Serbs in Serbia, Montenegro, and Bosnia-Hercegovina; meanwhile, international observers should be appointed for these camps. The conference urged that the International Committee of the Red Cross be enabled to arrive without any hindrance at all the detention camps.

XXVII. The conference expressed its deep concern at the escalating tension in Kosovo, Sandzak, and Macedonia, and it warned against the possibility of force being used against Muslims in these regions, as this would lead to dire consequences, and to the situation in the region further flaring up. It urged the Security Council to quickly look into the deployment of UN forces in Kosovo, Sandzak, Vojvodina, and the Republic of Macedonia, and into the containing of the very explosive situation prevailing in these regions.

XXIV. The conference also urged the member-countries to examine recognition of the Republic of Macedonia, and backing its request for UN membership.

XXV. The conference announced full support for all the efforts being made to end the membership of the former

Yugoslavia—Serbia and Montenegro—in all UN services and agencies. It expressed appreciation for the countries and international bodies which had offered humanitarian aid to the people of Bosnia-Hercegovina. It called on all member-states to contribute generously to alleviating that people's suffering, including offering aid to centers receiving Bosnian Muslim refugees in neighboring countries, particularly Croatia.

XXVI. The conference lauded the positive cooperation of the Republic of Croatia in facilitating implementation of the UN Security Council resolutions regarding the situation in Bosnia- Hercegovina, particularly those relating to securing the needs of the Republic of Bosnia-Hercegovina.

XXVII. The conference saluted the blessed intifadah of the Palestinian people and again expressed full solidarity with it and with the inhabitants of the other occupied Arab territories. It reaffirmed that the questions of Palestine and honorable Jerusalem were the Islamic nation's central questions and the core of the Arab-Israeli conflict and that durable and comprehensive peace in the Middle East region could only be achieved through full Israeli withdrawal from all the Palestinian and Arab territories occupied in 1967, including honorable Jerusalem, and through allowing the Palestinian people to exercise their firm and inalienable national rights, including the right to return, self-determination, and an independent Palestinian state, with honorable Jerusalem as its capital, under the leadership of the PLO, the sole and legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

XXVIII. The conference expressed its support for the efforts made to bring about peace and aimed at arriving at a just and comprehensive solution for the Palestinian question and the Arab-Israeli conflict, in accordance with international law resolutions, including Security Council Resolutions 242, 338, and 425, and the formula of land for peace and the realization of the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, and at resolving the problem of the Palestinian refugees in accordance with the UN resolutions, particularly Resolution 194 and Security Council Resolution 237.

The conference urged the cosponsors of the peace conference to intervene and use their influence to make Israel end its aggressions and its repressive and terrorist practices against the Palestinian citizens, and its blatant violations of human rights in order to guarantee the continuity of the peace process. In this respect, the conference called for a more effective participation of the UN in the talks currently under way, given the continuous permanent and consistent responsibility of the United Nations on the question of Palestine so that a just and comprehensive solution is found to all its aspects.

XXIX. The conference affirmed that holy Jerusalem is an indivisible part of the Palestinian territories occupied in 1967, and it can in no way be excluded from the current peace negotiations.

XXX. The conference affirmed that all the measures taken by Israel to annex holy Jerusalem, and to impose Israeli laws on all its Palestinian Arab population are null and void. The conference urged all the states of the world to refrain from establishing their embassies and consulates in the city of Jerusalem, in harmony with the UN resolutions, particularly Security Council Resolutions 465, 476, and 478.

XXXI. The conference called on the Islamic group and especially the six-man committee on Palestine to work within the United Nations on the need for the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 681; and take the necessary measures to provide international protection for the Palestinian people inside the occupied territories.

XXXII. The conference considered the existing settlements inside the occupied land as illegitimate, and that international guarantees should be provided for their removal in accordance with the resolutions of international law.

The conference called on the international community to exert the necessary pressure to force Israel to halt the settlements in the occupied territories, including holy Jerusalem, the Syrian Golan Heights, and southern Lebanon.

The conference considered the establishment of settlements in the occupied land and the exodus of Jewish emigrants to them as a basic obstacle facing the the current international peace efforts aimed at achieving a just and comprehensive peace in the region. The conference appealed to all states to refuse offering any assistance that may help Israel's expansionist policies.

XXXIII. The conference condemned strongly Israel's refusal to comply with UN Security Council Resolution 497 of 1981. It also denounced the imposition of its sovereignty, laws, and administration on the occupied Syrian Golan Heights, and its policies of annexation, settlement building, and confiscation of land. The conference considered all these measures as null and void, as they represent a violation of the rules and principles of international laws, particularly the fourth Geneva agreement of 1949.

XXXIV. The conference paid tribute to the steadfastness of Lebanon in the face of the Israeli occupation forces, and also paid tribute to the efforts of the Lebanese state in entrenching security, stability, and national unity, and condemned the continuous Israeli aggressions against Lebanon. It denounced the Israeli practices in southern Lebanon, which constitute a grave threat to peace and security in the region.

The conference urged the international community, particularly the cosponsors of the peace conference, to intensify their efforts to make Israel withdraw from southern Lebanon, in implementation of Security Council Resolution 425, and immediately stop all its acts of aggression and violation of the principles of the UN Charter and the relevant Geneva conventions.

XXXV. The conference also called on the international community to contribute quickly to the international fund for the reconstruction of Lebanon, and to give all possible aid to rapidly reconstruct its economic and social structure, and to enable the Lebanese people to overcome their difficult living conditions, so as to ensure their development and prosperity, and to preserve their independence and territorial integrity.

XXXVI. In the light of the grave tragedy through which Somalia is passing, the conference expressed its support for the proposal made by His Excellency President Abdou Diouf, president of the Republic of Senegal and chairman of the sixth Islamic summit conference, on 30 September 1992, to the 47th session of the UN General Assembly for the convening of an urgent international conference on Somalia under UN sponsorship, with the participation of the concerned Somali factions, the OAU, the ICO, the Arab League, the EC, the nonaligned countries, the countries neighboring Somalia, and the concerned international organizations in order to find a comprehensive political solution to the crisis in Somalia. The conference urged the international community, particularly the United Nations, to exert all efforts to ensure the delivery of humanitarian aid to the Somali people.

XXXVII. At the end of the deliberations, their excellencies the Senegalese foreign minister, Djibo Ka; the Pakistani minister of state for foreign affairs, Mohammed Siddique Kan Kanjo; and the Algerian foreign minister, Lakhdar Brahimi, expressed again their sincerest thanks, on behalf of the African, Asian, and Arab communities, to the custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd Bin 'Abd al-'Aziz, for his high patronage and wise and correct guidance of the sixth extraordinary session of the ICO foreign ministers meeting, on Bosnia-Hercegovina, which highly contributed to the success of these deliberations.

They also extended their thanks to the custodian of the two holy mosques for the hospitality of the government and people of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and expressed their thanks to and profound gratitude for His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud Al-Faysal, the session chairman, for his wise and skillful direction of the conference proceedings, which secured their success.

XXXVIII. In the end, the foreign minister of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and chairman of the sixth extraordinary session of the ICO foreign ministers meeting, His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al- Faysal, extended his thanks to the participants for their valuable contributions and for their spirit of understanding and cooperation which marked the proceedings and which enabled the conference to crown its proceedings with success.

Further on Speeches

LD0312190392 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 0510 GMT 3 Dec 92

[Excerpts] Jeddah, 3 Dec (SPA)—The sixth extraordinary session of the Islamic foreign ministers conference ended its work in Jeddah tonight after two days of discussions and debates focused on the situation in the Republic of Bosnia-Hercegovina. The final session was chaired by His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, the foreign minister and chairman of the current session. Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal made an address at the beginning of the final session. Here is the text of the address:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Dear brothers, we have been responding to the calls of brotherhood and solidarity, responding to the call of fraternity and cooperation which brings our hearts together, brings us together to share the same word. We are seeking only good, defending only right, and wanting only justice. We harbor appreciation for you all now that you have worked with all seriousness and perseverance to discuss the issue of your brothers in Bosnia-Hercegovina, who have been and continue to be subjected subjected to a vicious aggression which was aimed not only at their independence and the integrity of their territory, but it has been seeking and continues to seek their uprooting, the obliteration of their identity, and the elimination of their existence and entity. [passage omitted]

Brothers, the Islamic community, which should be a model and an example for mankind, is seen today to be in dire need for commitment to the principles of its Islamic creed which is the source of its strength, the instrument of its progress and the origin of its dignity so that it may preserve its distinguished position among the nations on earth, and so that it may stand as an impregnable barrier before the various trends facing it, and respond with strength and firmness to the challenges on its way. In this way, this nation will deserve to assume its responsibility, discharge its mission and preserve what is entrusted to it. [passage omitted]

Afterward, Mr. Djibou Ka, the foreign minister of Senegal, made the following address on behalf of the African group at the conference: Your Royal Highness, Your Highnesses Ministers, Your Excellencies Ambassadors, after two days of intensive deliberations and consultations, we arrive at the conclusion of the sixth extraordinary session of the Islamic foreign ministers conference which the king of Saudi Arabia has graciously hosted. The positive results achieved by this conference devoted to the very difficult situation in Bosnia-Hercegovina, was also an occasion to discuss a number of other issues which the ICO is following with a great deal of interest. [passage omitted]

Then Mr. Mohamed Siddique Kanjo, minister of state for foreign affairs of Pakistan, made an address on behalf of the Asian group. This is the text of the address: His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, his excellency the ICO secretary general, Your Excellencies, I am pleased, on behalf of the Asian members of ICO, to express appreciation and thanks for the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the custodian of the two holy mosques in particular for playing host to us at this sixth extraordinary session of the ICO on Bosnia-Hercegovina. [passage omitted]

This extraordinary session on Bosnia-Hercegovina has been successful and effective, and we have been able to come out with one position. We hope to Almighty God that what has been achieved will contribute to the bringing about of peace and stability, and to deterring the aggressor. [passage omitted]

The Islamic states must continue calling for the effective implementation of Security Council resolutions on the basis of Article 42 of the UN Charter to stop the vicious Serb aggression against the Muslims of Bosnia-Hercegovina. It is a source of pride for us that the ICO has adopted a number of important resolutions to put an end to the ordeal of our brothers the Muslims in Bosnia-Hercegovina, and an end to the blatant Serb aggression, and the trifling with the spirit and letter of the UN resolutions. The ICO group in New York has a special role and fresh responsibilities concerning the fate of these resolutions, and Pakistan, which is a member of this organization, will work for the observance of these resolutions. [passage omitted]

His Excellency Lakhdar Brahimi, the foreign minister of Algeria, also gave a speech on behalf of the Arab group in the conference, in which he said: [passage omitted] The members of the ICO are dealing with the crisis in former Yugoslavia and Bosnia-Hercegovina within the framework of international legitimacy and the efforts exerted to tackle this crisis. Our states do not want to isolate themselves from the rest of the world but to continue their efforts within the framework of the United Nations and the implementation of Security Council resolutions. Furthermore, they seek nothing but right and nothing but good and they consequently sympathize with whoever has a lost legitimate right and is struggling for it and demanding it.

We do not hesitate to support the Muslims of Bosnia-Hercegovina and apologize to no one for sympathizing with and supporting their struggle, for they are in this case the weak, wronged, and are threatened with extinction. Messrs Cyrus Vance and David Owen have felt these ideas and these feelings which will form the foundation for our cooperation with them in the future. [passage omitted]

After that His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal announced the conclusion of the sixth extraordinary session of the ICO foreign ministers on the situation in the Republic of Bosnia-Hercegovina.

Tunisian Minister's Talks

LD0212151292 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 2 Dec 92

[Text] On the sidelines of the ICO [Islamic Conference Organization] foreign ministers extraordinary session, Mr. Habib Ben Yahya, foreign affairs minister, today held talks in Jeddah with Mr. Cyrus Vance, UN mediator on the issue of Bosnia-Hercegovina, and Mr. David Owen, EC mediator on the same issue.

The talks dealt with the situation in the Republic of Bosnia-Hercegovina, the prospects for a possible settlement, and expected developments in light of the current situation.

Mr. Habib Ben Yahya also met with his Qatari counterpart, Shaykh Hamad bin-Jasim bin-Jabhur al Thani, and reviewed with him Tunisian-Qatari relations and the means to consolidate them. The two sides exchanged views on the issues put forward at the ICO extraordinary session and matters of mutual interest.

In addition, Mr. Habib Ben Yahya had talks with Dr. Hamid Algabid, ICO secretary general, and discussed relations between Tunisia and the ICO, and our country's active contributions in its activities. The talks also dealt with developments concerning issues on the agenda of the session, in the forefront of which is the issue of Bosnia-Hercegovina.

Jordan's Abu-Jabir Comments

JN0312100292 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 3 Dec 92 p 1, 17

[Excerpt] Jeddah, agencies—Foreign Minister Dr. Kamil Abu-Jabir has stressed that Jordan will not conclude any separate deal on the Middle East crisis with any party. He said Jordan is committed with the Arab brothers to a just, comprehensive and lasting solution.

In a statement to the QATARI NEWS AGENCY correspondent in Jeddah, Dr. Abu-Jabir, who is heading the Jordanian delegation to the meetings of the Islamic foreign ministers, said that Jordan insists that peace should be comprehensive and based on Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 as well as Resolution 425 dealing with Israel's withdrawal from southern Lebanon.

He said the foreign ministers of the Arab countries bordering Israel will meet in Beirut tomorrow, Friday, at the invitation of the Lebanese foreign minister, to coordinate for the next round of peace negotiations.

He said he could not say whether or not progress would be made in the next round because he did not know what was going on in the mind of the other party.

Regarding the new U.S. administration's position on peace efforts, Dr. Abu-Jabir said: What we hear from this administration is that it is committed to the peace process, and that it wants it to continue. [passage omitted]

Iranian, Pakistani Ministers Urge Closer ECO Ties

LD3011174692 Tehran IRNA in English 1710 GMT 28 Nov 92

[Text] Islamabad, Nov. 28, IRNA—Pakistani Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif called on members

of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) to adopt a new strategy to further strengthen their cooperation among themselves.

Inaugurating an extraordinary meeting of ECO foreign ministers here, the Pakistani premier also condemned the crimes being committed by Serbs against Bosnian Muslims.

Sharif said Pakistan and other ECO members are cooperating with one another to put an end to Serbian crimes through international circles.

Also addressing the audience was the Iranian foreign minister who referring to the numerous ups and downs in the ECO's past history, noted "we should pay due attention to this sensitive point that from now on our decisions and actions can play an effective role in the economic and social development of Muslims of the region."

'Ali Akbar Velayati added that in view of the ever-increasing role of communication in today's world, establishment of efficient communications services and satellite links between ECO members could assume key role in expanding their economic, political and cultural ties.

Other foreign ministers of ECO present at the session in their speeches called for efforts to be made to materialize the goals of the organization through strengthening of their economic, cultural, agricultural, industrial and educational relations.

Meanwhile, representatives of ECO's new member states signed documents on the membership of their respective countries. The new members are Afghanistan, Kyrgyzstan, Azerbaijan, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan and Tajikistan.

Palestinian Affairs

Israeli Move on Contacts With PLO 'Positive'

NC0112171592 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1412 GMT 3 Dec 92

[Text] Cairo, 3 Dec (MENA)—Mohammed Subeyh, the Palestine National Council secretary, has said the Israeli Knesset debate on a law allowing contacts with the PLO is a positive and advanced step that will correct the wrong Israeli policy. In a statement to MENA, Subeyh said that if this law is meant to have major positive results, the Israeli Government should hold direct contacts with the PLO, which will save much time in the ongoing peace talks.

Subeyh stressed that the previous Israeli law banning contacts with the PLO is racist and dubbers law Israeli Government. He pointed out that the current Israeli efforts to reconsider this law aim to improve its image abroad. He noted that this illegal law was violated several times by Israeli peace advocates such as Abi Nathan, Education Minister Shulamit Alfrei, and former Defense Minister Ezra Weizman. He called on Israel not to waste time so that a just and comprehensive Middle East peace might be achieved.

'Opportunity to Invigorate' Talks

NC0112191592 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1753 GMT 3 Dec 92

[Text] Tunis, 3 Dec 92 (MENA)—Hassan Abu-Sharif, adviser to Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat, has stated that the Palestinian leadership will begin an open meeting within the next few hours led by Yasir 'Arafat to discuss developments in the bilateral peace negotiations after the Palestinian leadership suspended a decision on participation in the eighth round of peace talks due to begin in Washington on Monday. In an exclusive statement to MENA, Abu-Sharif said the Palestinian leadership will define its position on the next round of talks in light of this meeting and the meeting of the cordon states foreign ministers due to begin in Beirut tomorrow. The cordon states foreign ministers will evaluate the peace talks so far.

Commenting on the Israeli Knesset vote on a bill to repeal its previous decision banning Israelis from contacting PLO members, Abu-Sharif said that if the Knesset abolishes the law, it would provide a new opportunity to invigorate the peace process.

Abu-Sharif expressed his confidence that following the Israeli decision, numerous meetings will be held between Israeli Knesset members representing various trends and Palestinian National Council members of various political trends. He pointed out that such meetings will help to create a more positive atmosphere that would help to remove Israeli fears about establishing a Palestinian state and would also remove Palestinian fears about the Israeli position on the occupied territories. He said such meetings will not be useful unless they are capped by formal meetings between the PLO leadership and the Israeli Government. Concluding his statement, Abu-Sharif voiced the hope that the Knesset decision will give Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin enough of a prop to respond to 'Arafat's public call for a meeting between them. He noted that should such a meeting take place, it would constitute a positive breakthrough in the stalemate in the peace process.

London Discusses Status of Peace Negotiations

Delegation Leader Interviewed

PM3011121792 London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI in Arabic 24 Nov 92 pp

[Interview with Dr. Hayder 'Abd-al-Shafi, head of the Palestinian delegation to the peace negotiations, by Fathi al-Sharqawi in Tunis; date not given]

[Text] [Al-Barqawi] Is the attitude of one particular party responsible for the impasse and dead end reached in the bilateral negotiations? Are the Palestinians coming under pressure?

['Abd-al-Shafi] There has been an impasse in the negotiations from the beginning because Israel wants to legitimize an illegitimate situation in the occupied Palestinian territory including the settlements and the settlers.

All Israeli efforts are steered in that direction. To impose what is illegitimate has taken many illegal measures. It amended the laws which were in force in the occupied territory to serve its expansionist ambitions and its long-term objective of annexing that territory.

The Israeli delegation reflected this at the negotiating table by refusing to give the Palestinian transitional government authority over the territory and by insisting that such a government should only have administrative and employment powers related to to the citizens' everyday life. Yitzhaq Rabin's government made some concessions. It agreed that territory where there are no settlements was negotiable, but Israel insists that it should have authority over the territory on which settlements have been built. We cannot accept that because it would mean abandoning our position, which regards Israel as an occupation power with no legitimate rights.

[Al-Barqawi] Why is there Palestinian opposition?

['Abd-al-Shafi] That has been the problem since the beginning of the negotiations. There is Palestinian opposition to the peace process for various reasons, including the fact that Israel imposed arbitrary terms such as interference in the formation of the Palestinian delegation and insistence on the continuation of the settlement-building process.

That opposition gained real power because of the deadlock in the negotiations and because of Israel's coercive policy and intensification of the settlement-building process while the negotiations were in progress. That undermined the credibility of the peace process, gave the opposition more ammunition, and created suspicion and caution among the Palestinians.

We, as a negotiating delegation, are aware of these factors and their effects. Because the peace process is not an easy process, for it is indeed a difficult and protracted process, we said from the beginning that we would not be able to to promise our people anything other than to work seriously for the fulfillment of our rights. It is evident that we have conceded nothing. Therefore, some of the arguments of the Palestinian opposition are unsound. They say that concessions were made. That is untrue but we admit that the present situation cannot continue. The fact that we are making some informational gains for our cause through our participation in the negotiations, which is important—this alone does not justify our continuation. What is required is fulfillment of our demands. That could only come through strong pressures on Israel to change its intransigent position.

When I face our people in the occupied territory I say very frankly that: we are prepared to hold an open dialogue with them to explain all aspects of the situation. We want the Palestinians of all political affiliations to act objectively without subjecting the higher national interests to any political blackmail of any kind just to score a point.

Despite the differences and the plurality, everyone knows for sure that our concerns are the same and our fate is the same. That is why we should be objective.

[Al-Barqawi] After two days of Palestinian leadership meetings here in Tunis, you must have arrived at a decision regarding the invitation to the eighth round of bilateral negotiations in Washington on 7 December.

['Abd-al-Shafi] The seventh round of negotiation has ended. We feel that the Israeli position is still intransigent and does not comply with the terms of reference for the peace process, namely Resolution 242. We also feel that the United States, the main sponsor, is still not doing its duty. We are unhappy about that; hence the reluctance to go to the next round of negotiation particularly as it comes so soon after the previous round.

We still intend to resume the negotiations in the sense that we have not contemplated boycotting the negotiation process. What we have contemplated is boycotting the next round while one U.S. Administration hands over to another.

No Palestinian decision has been made yet. The decision has been postponed, bearing in mind that the other Arab parties have decided to participate. Because of that Arab position, it is out of the question that we would consider our attendance to be unimportant.

[Al-Barqawi] Does the decision of the three Arab capitals, that is Damascus, Amman, and Beirut, mean that Arab coordination is lacking?

['Abd-al-Shafi] To a certain extent, perhaps. Actually, there is continuous coordination among the negotiating Arab delegations when they are in Washington. When the chief delegates met after the conclusion of the seventh round, it was agreed to leave the decision to the meeting of the four foreign minister scheduled to be held in Beirut at the beginning of next month. That meeting was supposed to be held earlier but was postponed, and that is why the three other Arab parties made their decision.

[Al-Barqawi] There is a pressing question on the mind of every Palestinian citizen. Is there a possibility of one Arab side signing a separate agreement with Israel, and, if so, how would the Palestinians be able to escape harm?

['Abd-al-Shafi] Definitely not. There is a fundamental understanding that no Arab state would sign a peace agreement with Israel to the exclusion of the other tracks. I am sure that the other states will remain committed to that principled agreement.

[Al-Barqawi] Would it be correct to say that the decision of the three Arab states to participate in the 7 December round was a deliberate move to put pressure on the Palestinians?

['Abd-al-Shafi] Everyone is entitled to his own interpretation, but I personally prefer not to interpret it that way.

[Al-Barqawi] Despite all that has been said about the Israeli plan, it has been noticed that there are two different Palestinian views regarding that plan. A PLO Executive Committee member has said that it does not meet the minimum Palestinian demands and is even completely contrary to the basis of the peace process, but Faysal al-Husayni said that Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres' autonomy proposal is worth discussing.

['Abd-al-Shafi] In principle, our task as a negotiating delegation is to discuss everthing that is presented. In actual fact, there are things which make it impossible to see the peace process progressing without serious and real and fundamental obstacles. The Israeli position on the question of Jerusalem is that the issue of that holy city is already decided and that the issue is not negotiable. Well, whatever concessions Israel makes—and there have been minor Israeli concessions—they would be worthless compared to Jerusalem. The Jerusalem issue alone totally blocks the peace process. We cannot possibly forfeit our right to Jerusalem.

[Al-Barqawi] As you have mentioned what you called minor Israeli concessions, could you tell us what these concessions are?

['Abd-al-Shafi] If we compare the position of Yitzhaq Shamir's government and that of Yitzhaq Rabin's government, we would see some concessions, such as authority over territory. In the past the Israelis rejected any geographical authority for the Palestinian transitional government and said that Israel had all the authority. Now they are saying that the part on which no settlements were built is negotiable but they insist that the territory where settlements were built would remain under Israeli authority. That is a concession, but we insist that all the territories occupied in 1967 should be under Palestinian authority.

The former Israeli Government rejected the principle of free general elections leading to the formation of a provisional Palestinian government, but Rabin's government has to accept that principle although it is in disagreement with us regarding the number of Council members. We want the number to be 180. They agreed to 15 and then to something close to 30. That is a concession.

As regards legislation, we are demanding legislative rights for the Palestinians but Israel refuses in principle. It recently started talking about the possibility of considering the matter.

[Al-Barqawi] You submitted a memorandum in reply to the Israeli plan. Could you give us the broad outlines of that memorandum?

['Abd-al-Shafi] The Palestinian memorandum included an insistence on a halt to the settlement-building process, commitment to the principles of human rights, full authority over territory, the right of self-determination, and "administrative authority" over all occupied areas including the settlements.

That is the Palestinian position. It should be noted that it can be flexible in some aspects, such as, for instance, the administrative authority. I personally believe that, considering the present sensitivities, the Israeli side would not accept our administrative authority over the settlers. We also accept that external security should be under Israeli jurisdiction. We do not dispute that and, although internal security should, in principle, be our responsibility, there ought to be Israeli participation at least in the settlements.

With a desire for true peace, perhaps we should be flexible in connection with economic measures on the basis of mutual interests. We would make great gains instead of having the situation remain as it is now, where only the Israelis are making gains. We should work for an equitable situation. It is not possible to seek economic independence that would perhaps have negative unacceptable results for Israel.

If we manage to overcome the main obstacles, including authority over territory, legislation, and the number of the elected Council members, and if we manage to reach agreement on these things, then it would not be difficult to reach agreement on all other matters.

[Al-Barqawi] You have mentioned the figure 180 as the number of Council members requested by the Palestinians. That is exactly the number of the national figures inside the occupied territory who will be invited to attend a future meeting [with the Palestinian leadership]. Is there a link there?

['Abd-al-Shafi] Actually there is a link based on the share of the Palestinians from the occupied territory in the Palestine National Council [PNC].

[Al-Barqawi] What is the purpose of the meeting, expected to take place within 10 days?

['Abd-al-Shafi] I did not participate in the deliberations on this matter and I still do not know if I am going to attend the meeting or not. In this current Palestinian atmosphere of allegations and fears, such a meeting could eliminate many ambiguities, tensions, and suspicions.

[Al-Barqawi] When you were in Washington, meetings were held between some members of the Palestinian

delegation and senior U.S. State Department officials. Are there any specific American promises?

['Abd-al-Shafi] No, not at all. There are no American promises. The United States has always kept its options open and has not committed itself to anything, not even to what was mentioned in the letters of assurances.

Fatah Official Lists 3 Options

PM3011124192 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 26 Nov 92 p 3

[Report on interview with Fatah Central Committee member Hani al-Hasan by Muhammad 'Ali al-Qu'aybi in Tunis; date not given]

[Text] Hani al-Hasan, member of the Fatah Central Committee, official in charge of foreign relations in Fatah, and political adviser to Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat, has announced that the Palestinian leadership decided at the end of two days of talks in Tunis to discuss—most likely on 4 or 5 December—the final position on the issue of withdrawing from the eighth round of Palestinian-Israeli negotiations to be held at the beginning of next month.

Al-Hasan, who was speaking to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT, pointed out that there are three equally strong views: The first demands that the negotiations be suspended, the second demands withdrawal, and the third demands that they be continued. This is why the leadership has decided to urgently send delegations to the United States, Russia, Europe, China, Japan, the nonaligned states, and the Arab and Islamic states to explore the background of their positions.

He said that "in order for the right position to be justifiable it must enjoy support and backing, otherwise we would fall into isolation."

Al-Hasan added that, proceeding from the outcome of these visits, a final assessment would be made to decide whether to participate in the eighth round or not.

The Palestinian official emphasized that what is required first is to draw up a correct policy and then discuss the next step on that basis.

He added: The dilemma we are in clearly proves that an erroneous policy has been exercised and must be replaced by a correct policy whose most important foundation is for Israel to announce its commitment to withdrawing from every inch of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. At then there would be negotiation with it over a date for the withdrawal, and then flexibility can be displayed.

Al-Hasan emphasized that there should be absolutely no negotiation over withdrawal from the territory, because territory is like honor—it cannot be negotiated.

Answering a question put forward by AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT about his assessment of the negotiations and their prospects under the new U.S. administration, he said: There is no longer disagreement over an important point, namely that the negotiations have reached an impasse, despite the existence of some views which want to allow more time to explore the Israeli position. But this view's argument centers on hope.

And 'Arafat personally announced that no progress has been achieved on the Palestinian track—an assessment made by a man who knows all the secrets of the present stage and the negotiations.

And when he announces this position openly to the Palestinian people, he is reflecting the scale and depth of the dilemma, because he would not have announced such a position if he was not convinced of the seriousness of the situation and the need to brief his people on it.

On prospects for the peace negotiations in U.S. President-elect Bill Clinton's era, Al-Hasan said: "There is now a problem which has two sides: a positive side and negative side. I believe that Clinton's victory will help push the peace process forward despite the fact that he is surrounded by a large number of influential Jewish forces, to whose votes he owes his victory. We can seize this opportunity to try to adopt a new approach in the negotiation process, especially as Europe has begun to fear that Clinton will tend to focus on political issues and economic markets much more than President George Bush.

This was conspicuous in two important events: First, what French President Francois Mitterrand said following his meeting with Egyptian President Husni Mubarak, namely that the PLO's role in any future political solution must be recognized. Not only that, he actually ruled out the possibility of any progress being made in the PLO's absence.

Mitterrand's statement comes before his visit to Israel and Jordan. The second event is represented in the moves currently being made to revive Arab solidarity to tackle the developments which the region and the world are experiencing.

Answering a question put by AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT about his position on the decision adopted by four Palestinian factions to boycott the Palestinian leadership's recent meetings in Tunis, Al-Hasan said: "We were saddened by the absence of the brothers in the Popular Front [for the Liberation of Palestine], the Democratic Front [for the Liberation of Palestine], and Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] from those meetings, since national unity is fundamental, the PLO is our common ground, and the scale of the big problems surrounding us makes it impossible for us to have one view, because unity of views exists only among the dead.

All the political forces on the Palestinian scene are patriotic forces, and patriots are capable of mutual understanding and coordination.

PNC Chairman on Rabin's Role

LD0112093092 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 28 Nov 92 p 3

["Abd-al-Hamid al-Yahyawi report: "Sha'th Tells AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: Rabin Qualifies for De Gaulle's Role, Refuses To Seize Opportunity"]

[Text] Brussels—Dr. Nabil Sha'th, chairman of the Palestine National Council Political Committee, has emphasized the PLO's optimism about the future of the peace negotiations in the light of the change which has occurred in the U.S. Administration after Bill Clinton's victory in the presidential elections. Sha'th was speaking to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Brussels, where he held a press conference in which he urged the EC to play a more effective role in the peace process, emphasizing that Europe is capable of becoming the third sponsor and driving force for the negotiations, especially as the the Soviet Union has collapsed and the U.S. Administration has almost stopped pushing the negotiations—bilateral and multilateral—forward.

Sha'th demanded that Europe participate in the bilateral negotiations in the same degree to which it participates in the multilaterals.

He emphasized that the Palestinian side supports the idea of convening a second Madrid conference if all the parties concerned with the conflict agree, in order to consolidate the peace foundations on the basis of which the first Madrid conference was launched, that is UN Resolutions 242 and 338 and the land-for-peace principle.

On Yitzhaq Rabin, Sha'th said that he is qualified to become the Charles de Gaulle of the Middle East if he wants to. He went on: "I believe that conditions are favorable, but so far Rabin has not acted in a manner that gives the impression that he is going to take such a decision."

Sha'th was in Brussels participating in the proceedings of a seminar entitled "Palestine Today and Tomorrow" organized jointly by the "Palestinian-Belgian Friendship Society" and the "committee for honoring Na'im Khidr."

He said that the bilateral negotiations in Washington are also facing problems which the multilateral negotiations are facing elsewhere, such as Brussels, Ottawa, Tokyo, etc. And these talks are suffering from Israel's hesitation to offer plans compatible with the terms on the basis of which we entered these talks.

True, Shamir is not Rabin; true, Shamir admitted to us that he wasted nine months in an attempt to plant Soviet Jewish emigrants in the occupied West Bank, and that he wasted that time for nothing; and true, Rabin has now made some proposals which address territory and legislation—issues which Shamir refused to discuss; but the present Israeli progress is not at all sufficient to initiate the transitional phase. They are proposing to us a plan closer to the apartheid system (racial segregation policy) in South Africa. They are proposing that this territory be divided into settlements and a Jerusalem which they have seized. They want to turn this seizure from a fait accompli into an agreed matter and into a vast land to keep under Israeli military control during the transitional phase—which is completely unacceptable.

We do not accept that they fragment our land during the transitional phase, not only because that is illegal and incompatible with the terms on the basis of which we entered the negotiations, but also because it is impractical, impossible to implement, and does not lead to peace. We are now faced with this problem, and the U.S. sponsor, who is busy with his elections and the transition, is not exerting sufficient efforts to put pressure on the Israelis to get them to comply with the rules of the game.

Negotiator Cited on U.S. Role

JN0312081292 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 3-4 Dec 92 pp 1, 4

["Special to the JORDAN TIMES 'by Sana' 'Atiyah]

[Text] Amman—Palestinian participation in the eighth round of Arab-Israeli peace talks due to resume on Dec. 7 depends on American response to a number of demands the Palestinian delegation made to State Department officials last month at the end of the seventh round, Palestinian sources said Wednesday.

The Palestinian demands, according to the sources, included:

—The U.S. should commit itself into securing an Israeli pledge to respect the human rights of the Palestinians in the occupied territories;

—The U.S. should reaffirm the right of the Palestinian people to exercise authority with full jurisdiction over all the occupied territories, including East Jerusalem and secure Israeli commitment to respect this Palestinian right during the interim phase;

—The U.S. should ensure that Israel produce new ideas other than those presented during the last round of negotiations; and

—The U.S. should pledge to transform its promises into action.

Speaking on condition of anonymity, a Palestinian delegate to the peace talks also welcomed a letter reportedly sent by U.S. Acting Secretary of State Lawrence Eagleburger to Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin blaming the Jewish state for the slow pace in achieving progress in the peace talks, which were launched in Madrid in October 1991.

"I believe that Eagleburger's letter to Israel is some kind of a response to our demands," said the delegate, who preferred anonymity.

The source also said that Mr. Eagleburger had sent a letter to the Palestinian delegation requesting their participation in the next round.

Reports from Jeddah said Wednesday that the Palestinians have urged their Arab partners to boycott the eighth round of peace talks. The call was made during a meeting of the foreign ministers of the concerned parties held on the peripheries of the Organisation of Islamic Conference gathering.

Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Executive Committee member Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh told Reuters that the Palestinian leadership advocated "postponing the next round because there is no benefit because of Israel's position." He was also quoted as saying that the Palestinians were waiting for "written answers" from the U.S. about their concerns.

In intense meetings in Tunis last month, the Palestinian leadership decided to delay their decision for participation until the Arab foreign ministers coordination meeting due to be held in Beirut Friday.

Palestinian delegation sources told the Jordan Times that the negotiators and advisors had recommended at the PLO meetings—which reviewed the entire peace process—not to agree on participation until their demands or at least some of them, were met.

"(George) Bush had promised during his speech at the Madrid conference that the U.S. will play the role of the driving force in the talks. But we have not seen this implemented yet as it should," the delegate said, referring to the demand that the U.S. "fulfill its promises."

The Palestinians expect American pressure on Israel for the Jewish state to apply the Fourth Geneva Convention and end all human rights violations against Palestinians in the occupied territories and to ensure protection of the people; to end settlement activity, which the U.S. is monitoring; to ensure that the Rabin government fulfil its commitment to transferring to the Palestinians interim self-government all authorities except security and foreign affairs; for Jerusalem to be part of the interim negotiations; to resume its dialogue with the PLO; to get Israel to give the Palestinian delegation access to information related to issues under negotiations; to provide economic support by raising its contributions to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) and provide direct contributions; and to allow a wider range of experts to take part in the talks.

The last request, according to a Palestinian source, was approved by the Israelis at the end of the last round of talks. Israelis agreed to allow Palestinian experts from the diaspora to take part, unless they are residents of Jerusalem or members of the PLO.

Meanwhile, the outgoing Bush administration had urged all parties involved in the peace talks "to take advantage of the next two months before Bill Clinton's administration takes over and gives momentum to the talks," the source said, adding that he expected the Clinton administration, which takes over on Jan. 20, to dedicate its first six months to internal matters. State Department officials have assured the Palestinians that Mr. Clinton's policy on the peace process would remain similar to the Bush administration's, the source said.

The Palestinian demands were tabled at informal meetings at the State Department during the November round of talks. The meetings reviewed Israeli proposals for the interim period in which Israel is to transfer its authorities to the Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip for a three-year transitional period before a final solution is reached.

The sources told the Jordan Times that the U.S. had constantly asked the Palestinian negotiators to engage in detailed discussions with their Israeli counterparts before rejecting the proposals outright, and that their ability to draw up a structure of the Israeli model during the last round of talks had "revealed the Israeli plan and intentions, which are violations of the terms of reference."

The Israeli proposals on the Palestinian interim self-government arrangements allow very limited self-rule for the Palestinians and disregard the terms of reference of the peace process, mainly Security Council resolutions 242 and 338, the sources said.

The Palestinians, the source said, had concluded that the Israeli proposal for the interim period only provided the following:

—It grants Israeli settlements legitimacy and gives settlers in the occupied territories "maximum autonomy" and ensures that they are not affected by the Palestinian authority, thus "creating a dual judicial system similar to apartheid based on discrimination on our soil;"

—Israel maintains "maximum control" over the Palestinian people, including in fields which are supposed to be transferred to Palestinian jurisdiction.—It does not provide a genuine transfer of authority and is only a limited transfer of power in some sectors;

—The complex and multiple land administration and legal system (some of which is under Palestinians rule, some under Israeli rule and most under joint rule) prejudges the final status of the occupied territories, paving the way to Israel's annexation of a large part of the occupied territories;

—There is no mention of withdrawal or military redeployment and only provides use of land rather than Palestinian ownership over large parts of the land, and it lays claim to shared control over a large portion of the territory.

—It does not provide an Israeli commitment that settlement activity will end during the interim period; and

—It excludes East Jerusalem from the arrangement.

The Palestinian delegation found that the model for the interim period would remain "vulnerable, weak and devoid of any legitimacy." The sources said that Israeli delegation was told that their model "would not constitute a valid experience in co-existence nor a step towards a real solution or peace."

'Arafat Receives Russian Ambassador 3 Dec

LD0312192492 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 3 Dec 92

[Text] Brother Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], president of the State of Palestine and chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, received his excellency the russian ambassador in Tunis this afternoon. During the meeting, the two men discussed the latest developments in the Middle East peace process in light of Israel's attempts to thwart this process by obstructing and delaying the talks. The discussions also dealt with Israel's policy aimed at increasing its iron grip on our people. The importance of Russia's effective and active role in the peace process was also discussed at the meeting.

Fatah's Al-Hasan Welcomes French, Moroccan Role

PM0112145692 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 28 Nov 92 p6

[Rashid Khashanah report: "The Arab Parties Have Reached Agreement Which Has Been Passed to Mitterrand To Be Conveyed to the Israelis"]

[Text] Tunis—Fatah Central Committee Member Hani al-Hasan has stated that "the Arab parties [atraf] in the Middle East and abroad have reached agreement which they passed to President Francois Mitterrand to be conveyed to Israel."

In a statement he made in Tunis yesterday, al-Hasan said that the agreement included "the Arab parties' willingness to end the Arab boycott of Israel in return for concessions on the ground and recognition of the PLO's role in the peace process."

Al-Hasan, who is a political adviser to President 'Arafat, added that "the Palestinians are unanimous that the peace negotiations are now in a crisis, having reached a dead end," but he spoke of "some hope based on the efforts being made by Egypt and France to find a way through the dead end."

He said "after Mitterrand's visit we will know for sure if there is a possibility of changing the position of (Yitzhaq) Rabin and his government on the Palestinian question. He still clings to the logic of victor and vanquished. Everything he submits clearly indicates that he has no intention of withdrawing from the West Bank or recognizing the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people."

He added "we are happy that President Mitterrand has embraced the idea of, together with Egypt, raising these issues again with Israel, which he voiced before his departure when he said that the PLO is the legitimate representative of the vast majority of the Palestinians."

He further said "we hope that France will refrain from giving aid to the Israeli Government if it does not respond to the view expressed by Mitterrand, namely recognition of the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people."

He emphasized that Arab coordination is weak, "the proof of that being the success of the tracks theory which the Israelis have exploited so much. We will seek discussion of the possibilities of better coordination, particularly as issues such as withdrawal cannot be separated now that we have all pledged not to sign any separate agreements because we realize that separate solutions do not bring comprehensive peace."

He said that he is "personally sure that, contrary to what some people think, Syrian will not conclude a separate peace agreement with Israel, nor will Jordan," but he said that "Rabin is trying to make progress on certain tracks in order to ignite inter-Arab differences."

He said that the Palestinian leadership will meet again early next month to discuss the results of the exploratory moves in Washington and Moscow. We will then make the appropriate decision, he said.

He added that "nobody in the world should expect us to continue the negotiations forever if Israel's aim is to play for time and procrastinate with a view to creating new facts accomplis on the ground, bearing in mind that the number of people killed by the new government headed by Rabin has reached 50 martyrs in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip."

Answering a question about the results of the recent moves of [Morocco's] King Hassan II, he said that "there have been two important developments. The first was President Mitterrand's declaration that the PLO is the legitimate representative of the majority of the Palestinian people and his visit to the region bearing significant economic projects, and the second was the initiative of King Hassan II as a result of which [Saudi Deputy Prime Minister and Defense Minister] Prince Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz went to Morocco to discuss ways of tackling the current Arab situation. If we realized that Prince Sultan is the man for difficult missions, has a brave vision of what is going on in the region, and has the ability to make daring decisions, we would understand the importance of the current meetings in Morocco. We in the PLO strongly support these moves."

PLO's al-Ahmad: Iraqi Relations 'Solid'

JN0212104292 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 2 Dec 92 p 15

[By Riyad Mansur]

[Text] Palestinian ambassador to Iraq 'Azzam al-Ahmad has condemned the repressive practices still being practiced by the Kuwaiti authorities against Palestinians in Kuwait.

He told SAWT AL-SHA'B that the Kuwaiti authorities have deported 15,000 Palestinians to Iraq, and that Iraq provides all facilities to the Palestinians and Arabs who are deported by Kuwait.

Al-Ahmad denounced the continuation of Kuwaiti campaign of repression and deportation against the Palestinians. He asked why the regional and international organizations which speak about human rights, are silent toward these crimes?

The Palestinian ambassador to Iraq stressed that the Palestinian-Iraqi relations are deep and solid, and that nothing can hurt them. He referred to the attempts by some powers to raise questions about these relations, and said these attempts usually die out quickly.

He said that despite the circumstances of siege, Iraq is still supporting the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, which he said, proves that the Palestine question is in the minds of the Iraqis, and is one of their national and pan-Arab concerns.

He added that contacts between the Palestinian and Iraqi leaderships are ongoing and are based on continuous coordination in all fields that concern the two sides in a manner that serves the struggle of the Palestinian people.

Al-Ahmad said the PLO is eager to do its utmost, in the Arab and international arenas, toward lifting the unjust siege on Iraq.

Paper on Rabin Attempts to 'Beautify' Occupation

T:80212162592 Jerusalem AL-SHA'B in Arabic 2 Dec 92 pp 1, 11

[Editorial: "The Bridge of Peace or the Bridge of Pain?"]

[Text] While inaugurating the expanded terminal at the Allenby Bridge yesterday, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin expressed the hope that the Allenby Bridge will be a bridge of peace between the Arabs and Israel. At the same time he called on the Palestinian delegation to accept the self-administration plan.

It is worth noting that at a time when Rabin, the prime minister and defense minister, was speaking in this tone, through which he is trying to appear eager to establish peace in the region, he was giving orders to his soldiers in the Gaza Strip to fire on defenseless residents, resulting in the death of a martyr and the injury of scores of others. This affirms the contradiction in Israeli language when talking about peace, sheds more light on the negative Israeli stance on peace, and reaffirms the importance of an international role in providing protection to the occupied territories' residents after the Israeli authorities' failure to maintain this security has been proven.

Rabin fools only himself when he believes that the issue lies in constructing bridges, paving streets, and improving the living conditions of the residents of towns, villages, and refugee camps. The harsh living conditions from which residents of the occupied territories are suffering stem from and are a direct result of the occupation. All of Rabin's "humanitarian" attempts to beautify the occupation or change its flavor will not succeed. Occupation is occupation—ugly with an unpleasant taste and odor. There will never be calm nor peace as long as occupation continues. Real peace lies in ending the occupation, granting the Palestinian people their legitimate national rights, and establishing their independent state over their national soil.

Hence, we see in Rabin's efforts to beautify the occupation an attempt at deception and making light of Palestinian minds, which have always been familiar with the games of Israel's leaders, just as these theatrics will also not succeed in misleading world public opinion, even Israel's friends. Those friends have now reached the conclusion that it is disgraceful to continue the occupation and that the Palestinian people should be given their legitimate rights and their independent state so that they will exercise their rights just as any other nation of the world.

The bridge of peace about which Rabin is speaking is the bridge of suffering and pain. It separates the hearts and keeps hands apart—hands which do not meet when the time comes for them to meet as long as Rabin keeps occupying this bridge.

PFLP's Habash Urges Solidarity With PLO

NC0412122292 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0905 GMT 4 Dec 92

[Text] Cairo, 4 Dec (MENA)—George Habash, the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP] leader, has emphasized the need to take the Palestinian issue and the Arab-Israeli conflict to the international legitimacy, represented by the United Nations, which would be a better alternative to redress what he called "a disequilibrium in the balance of forces" in the current peace negotiations. In a statement to AL-'ALAM AL-YAWM published in Cairo today, Habash said that international legitimacy settled the issue of Palestinian representation when it said that the PLO is the sole, legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, and put forth the right to self-determination, the Palestinians' right to establish their own state, and the Palestinian people's right to return to their homeland in accordance with UN General Assembly Resolution 194. He said that this legitimacy also settled the issue of Jerusalem and settlements when it called for dismantling all settlements.

Habash stressed the importance of Palestinian national unity, saying that all Palestinian organizations should join the PLO and clasp hands to establish real democracy. He said: I appeal to all Palestinian groups to take their differences to the Palestine National Council and to all other establishments in the PLO Central Council and the PLO Executive Committee, which would be better than staying outside the PLO framework.

Hamas Demands 40 Percent of Gaza Council Seats

TA0112142292 Jerusalem AL-FAJR in Arabic 1 Dec 92 pp 1, 11

[Text] Gaza—Informed sources in the Gaza Strip have said that during talks held recently to set up the Gaza municipal council, Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] demanded 40 percent of the council's seats.

In talks with attorney Fayiz Abu-Rahmah, who has held consultations with representatives of various currents in the town with the aim of setting up the council, Hamas representatives demanded seats in proportion to the movement's size in the Gaza Strip.

Dr. Mahmud al-Zahhar [Hamas leader in Gaza Strip] told AL-FAJR that consultations between all the parties are still going on "and that no draft agreement has been reached so far."

It is worth noting that attorney Abu-Rahmah is currently in Amman where he is holding consultations with Palestinian officials on this issue.

AL-FAJR has learned form informed sources that the following formula was proposed in talks with representatives of Palestinian currents: five seats for Fatah, five seats for Hamas, two seats for the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, one seat for the People's Party, one seat for the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, one seat for the Arab Liberation Front, and two seats for independents.

Egypt

Foreign Minister's Assistant Leaves for Beirut

NC0412094492 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0818 GMT 4 Dec 92

[Text] Cairo, 4 Dec (MENA)—Ambassador Mahab Mushil, assistant to the foreign minister, left Cairo for Beirut this morning to attend the meetings of the Arab foreign ministers concerned with the peace negotiations later today. Before his departure, Mushil said that the Beirut meetings have special importance regarding coordination among the Arab countries concerned with the peace process before the eighth round of Arab-Israeli bilateral negotiations opens in Washington on 7 December. This round of talks will be held during a transition between the current and future U.S. Administrations. He said that as it has always done, Egypt is seeking to advance the peace process and will employ all means to prevent it from stopping or stumbling in future stages.

$18 Million-Loan Agreement Signed With PRC

NC0312204792 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1538 GMT 3 Dec 92

[Text] Cairo, 3 Dec (MENA)—Egypt and the PRC today [3 December] signed an agreement under which the PRC Government will offer an $18 million loan to fund small and medium projects on which both governments will agree. The agreement was signed by Dr. Maurice Makramallah, minister of state for international cooperation, and by PRC Ambassador to Cairo Zhu Yinglu.

IMF Said To Refuse To Sign New Agreement

NC0312204292 Cairo AL-AHRAM PRESS AGENCY in Arabic 1856 GMT 3 Dec 92

[Text] Cairo, 3 Dec (AL-AHRAM PRESS AGENCY)—AL-SHA'B, the Labor Party's mouthpiece, publishes the following item in its issue for tomorrow morning:

The IMF has rejected a request by the government to sign a new agreement in January and threatened to cancel the May 1991 agreement if the government fails to meet all IMF conditions by next March.

Responsible sources at the Ministry of International Cooperation stressed that the Egyptian delegation, led by Dr. 'Atif 'Ubayd, currently discussing the agreement with the IMF in Washington met a decisive rejection from IMF and World Bank experts for its request to sign the new agreement in January. The signing of the agreement was scheduled for November but was delayed at the government's request.

The sources said that the IMF gave the government until March, threatening to cancel the May 1991 agreement if it fails to implement the reforms proposed by the IMF by then.

The sources also stressed that the IMF refused the government's request to intercede with the World Bank to release the second $150-million installment of the structural reinforcement [takhif] loan. In addition, it refused to convince creditor countries to finance the Social Development Fund, which so far has failed to begin its real activity, which is to support low-income people.

Economic sources told AL-SHA'B that the IMF proposed to the Egyptian Government a plan to attract foreign investment, making its implementation a condition for the signing of the new agreement.

Intellectuals Meets With Israel's Peres

NC0312191092 Cairo AL-MUSAWWAR in Arabic 4 Dec 92

[Text] A meeting was held between Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres and a group of Egyptian thinkers, politicians, and strategists in Cairo on 15 November 1992. The Egyptians were invited by the Egyptian Foreign Ministry in response to a desire expressed by Peres to meet with a number of Egyptian thinkers during his short official visit to Cairo so that he could hear unofficial viewpoints.

What ideas and notions did Peres raise? What about the ideas and notions of the Egyptian group that debated him? What took place in the one-and-a-half-hour meeting, which some of the participants and observers described as stormy?

Israeli Foreign Minister Peres presented his opinions and his future view of the region, focusing his talk on explaining the current negotiations between Israel and the Arab parties, which are proceeding on two tracks: First, the bilateral talks, which he believes are related to the past; and second, the multilateral talks that concern the future and are, in his view, more important because the region could be rearranged on the basis of these talks.

Peres discussed Israel's autonomy offer to the Palestinians. He believes that autonomy would be done in two stages, the second to start at the end of a three-year period of autonomy that will be a temporary solution within the context of the combined example. According to this example, the Palestinians will get autonomy and then have the right to talk about the lands and waters they use.

Peres said that the Israeli side has taken several confidence-building steps, including its acceptance of Palestinian participation in the other multilateral committees, such as the Refugee and Economic Committees. He added that the Israelis have agreed to allow the inhabitants of East Jerusalem to vote outside Jerusalem and to stop building settlements.

As to the other Arab parties, Peres reviewed achievements on the Jordanian front, adding that an agreement has almost been reached on an agenda.

As to the Syrian side, the Israelis, according to Peres, have avoided the use of the word withdrawal from the premise that "we are first searching for the nature of peace. We told the Syrians that Resolutions 242 and 338 have a regional dimension."

Continuing to talk about the Syrian stand, Peres said that he still believes that the Syrians are finding it difficult to accept the meaning of peace. Peres added that it is Israel's understanding that peace means full normalization, while the Syrians, according to Peres, are confining themselves to the question of withdrawal. Their talk about peace is vague. Here Peres said: "President al-Asad has changed his strategy but not his mentality."

The Israeli foreign minister said that Lebanon is still under Syrian protection and is not yet at peace with itself.

Peres then discussed the multilateral talks, giving what one of the Egyptian participants called "a long speech" on the prosperous future of the region if peace is achieved. He focussed on the establishment of a common market and an economic think, and spoke about higher technological levels and the importance of political and economic democracy throughout the region. Peres believes that the economic market must be based on political and economic democracy. He said: "We would like to see democracy overwhelm all Middle East countries and the peoples of the region choose their rulers and policies."

Peres explained that as a result of hunger and disease peoples start to protest, leading to the emergence of religious and non-religious extremist movements.

Peres linked the removal of nuclear weapons from the region to the holding of inspections and verifications in all countries of the region—something he believes is unattainable before peace is reached.

This argument, however, was disputed as inaccurate. Inspections and verifications may be carried out by a third party, such as the United Nations or its bodies, or by any other side acceptable to the states of the region.

Peres also said that Israel has no ambitions on Arab waters because it can obtain water through desalination projects using modern technology.

When Peres ended his remarks, every interlocutor was given a chance to speak so that the Israeli foreign minister could make a final comment on their ideas and questions at the end of the meeting. The first speaker was Muhammad Sayyid Ahmad, who accepted the challenge of attending the meeting as an intellectual, not as a representative of his party. He commented on Peres' remarks, saying:

There are objective justifications for Peres's logic and his concentration on the region's future outlook—irrespective of the fact that Yitzhaq Rabin is curbing the role, status, and future of Peres in the current Israeli Government. Peres means that the status quo, with the existing balances of power, must be acknowledged. He believes, I think, that Israel is now in a strong position because there is only one superpower in the world; the United States, whose ruling party is Israel's closest ally. Therefore, Peres believes that the future should not be decided in accordance with logic but with the existing balance of power.

Ahmad stressed that a land-for-peace exchange is a well-defined principle. The Arabs are asking for the return of all occupied territories, and Israel wants to give only part of them. The concept of peace, on the other hand, is not well defined.

It is natural, Ahmad said, that all sides will gain from peace. This should not mean, however, that one of the parties should decide what and how the others are going to gain—otherwise, we will be returning to imperialism.

Muhammad Sayyid Ahmad then discussed the origin of the Jewish problem, which began in Europe and was moved to the Middle East to find a solution. The Jews say that they are persecuted in Europe and that they are exposed to Arab hatred. We cannot lump the cause and effect together. He added that the basic rule that combines the EC as one indivisible grouping is that no state should dominate the others, for instance, Germany should not dominate the cartel. In the case of Israel, however, Israel, its security, and the Jewish problem are the basis in deciding the peace process. The Arabs reject this, Ahmad says "because we cannot convince our peoples that peace is just, that it will enable our peoples to control their resources, and that peace will benefit them, if the basis of peace is Israel's security and the Jewish problem."

Peres did not answer these points in his final reply, but he gave an indirect response when he said: "We, as Jewish people, have never wanted to control others. All we wanted to do was buy and sell and act according to the market's mechanism. When I buy good products from Japan, I choose Japan because it is capable of turning out products that meet the market needs." He dwelt on Israel's resolve to be one party opposite several Arab parties in a bid to deepen contradictions among them. This approach might benefit Israel in the short term but it will not create peace.

Ahmad discussed another point that drew his attention in Peres' statement when he said: "We in Israel allowed the Palestinian negotiators to contact whoever they want." Ahmad asked Peres: "Which is that party? Why not call it by name? How is it that this party is unimportant and you absolutely do not want to deal with it? You say that the PLO is terrorist, but certain colleagues in your Israeli Government with whom you deal were terrorists such as the Irgun and Stern leaders." When he touched on the Palestinian issue, Peres' answer was that he will not deal with the PLO and accused 'Arafat of lying.

When one of the interlocutors replied that two Fatah members were elected in Bir Zayt, Peres said: "I will

deal with elected Palestinians. 'Arafat was not elected and I will not deal with him."

When another interlocutor said that Muhammad Sayyid Ahmad is the author of the book "After the Guns Go Silent," Peres said: "He is educated although he still lives in the past and its ideas. Let us wait until he writes a book entitled 'When the Peace Bells Ring.'"

The second speaker was Ambassador Tahsin Bashir, who told Peres: When you talk about the future, you remind me of the Chinese proverb that says: "You are pointing to the moon, but you cannot see the tips of your fingers." The ambassador explained that the Arab countries and the Palestinians accepted everything Israel had been demanding up to 4 June 1967; that is, they accepted all Israel's historical demands. But 25 years after the occupation of the Arab territories, Israel has still failed to recognize the Palestinians as a distinct nationality. Israel should have recognized them as an independent nationality, just like what the Arabs did when they recognized Israel as an independent nationality.

Bashir noted that Israel has not yet offered a final and comprehensive solution to the Palestine question. The proposal of a two-stage solution is an open one that can only raise questions. Nothing guarantees what will or will not happen after three years. The cosponsors' letters of assurances do not guarantee that a second stage of negotiations must begin to reach final solutions. This issue is still vague.

At the end of his remarks, the ambassador asked Peres: For the sake of argument, let's assume that the Palestinians accepted a demilitarized Palestinian state or political entity with local police only. Would Israel accept? Would Israel accept the establishment of a demilitarized Palestinian state for an agreed-upon period of time?

Peres did not answer the question. He only said: "The current Israeli Government is trying to create in the Israeli public a desire for the peace process." He did not specify Israel's conditions on the establishment of a Palestinian state or even discuss the principle of establishing a Palestinian state.

Counselor Hafiz Ismail wondered how foundations of economic cooperation, as viewed by Peres, could be laid. He recalled that the second Gulf war cost the Arab world $620 billion, and that the Arabs annually spend $50 billion on defense and $30 billion on food imports. How can an economic block, like those of Europe and the United States, be formed when the essence of the Arab cause—the Palestine question—is not resolved? How can the Arabs be asked to forget the past and look toward the future to bring about peace? How can we forget the recent past when the Jews and Israel have not forgotten the ancient past, which extends to 2,000 years or more?

Peres offered some statistics that reflect the situation in the region as he sees it. He said the region's states spent $620 billion on war over five months and only $700 billion on development and construction over 10 years. The construction, he noted, was carried out by American and European companies. From that $700 billion, he said, Egypt's portion was 1 billion [as published]. Peres stressed that in case of peace, companies of the region will be able to implement development projects.

Former Foreign Minister Dr. Murad Ghalib began his argument by reminding Peres that he [Ghalib] resigned to protest al-Sadat's visit to Jerusalem. Peres replied that he knew that. Murad said that the mere fact that this meeting is being held shows the change in mentality and climate in the region. He stressed to Peres that no one can argue about the importance of establishing and achieving peace in the region. The real question, however, is how to do it. How can we reach this peace in the current situation in the region?

He asked Peres several questions: What will you do with the Palestinians? What will you do about the settlement policy you regard as the key for Israel's security and safety? When we tell you that advanced weapons have negated the theory that land and secure borders are the basis for security, you reiterate that God has given this land to the Israeli people and that you will live on it.

Peres' reply was: "We can live anywhere in the region."

Dr. Murad Ghalib: "Under what legitimacy?" Peres replied: We are discussing this matter. The land was with the Arabs before 1967 but there was no peace.

Briefly, Dr. Murad replied by saying that the absence of peace was caused by Israeli occupation of the Arab territories. He reminded the Israeli foreign minister of what Nahum Goldman reported in his memoirs about his talk with David Ben Gurion, who said: The Arabs are right; we came, took their lands, expelled them from their houses, and said that God has given us this land. Our God is not their God.

Peres said that the comments were Goldman's interpretation of what Ben Gurion, whom he praised highly, said.

When Dr. Murad reminded him of the nuclear weapons that Israel has and that it put its nuclear weapons on the alert in 1973, Peres said: "You know more than I do." Dr. Murad retorted: "It is you who know more than I do but you don't like to talk about the extent of your nuclear weapons."

Dr. 'Ali-al-Din Hilal recalled the preamble of the consistent statement of UNESCO, which says that war and peace exist only in the minds of people. Accordingly, Dr. al-Hilal went on to say that it is important to understand how people see each other, particularly as we are peoples with memories that go back a long time. He presented his view on solving the Palestinian problem, which, he said, depends on mutual recognition. He underlined the importance of having the Israelis recognize the Palestinian people's political rights, adding that the Israelis

will not be in daily touch with Egyptians or Syrians but will have to live and rub shoulders with Palestinians constantly.

He said: Therefore I believe that Israel should make an initiative toward the Palestinians. Though I understand the complexities and problems of any negotiating process and realize that it needs time, it is also important that the parties know what to expect in the end. We can talk here, for example, about a declaration of principles. It is my view that a radical change or important shift in your relations with the Palestinians is needed.

Dr. Hilal also stressed that peace and stability depend on a feeling of equality and balance. He explained that one of the problems that is raising fears and unease is the extent of Israel's weapons and military technology advances. Therefore, any talk about peace must be reflected in armament policies. Dr. Hilal told Peres: I don't know what diplomats are telling you about this issue, but as an Egyptian citizen, I, like others, am very ill at ease.

Peres replied: There are no problems between us and Egypt. But can you guarantee that Iran or other countries in the region do not have the bomb?

The meeting ended on this note. Most of the essential issues were raised and the Egyptians tried to make Israel face its real responsibilities in the sphere of settlement, nuclear weapons, and other hotly disputed issues. In return, Peres was eager to give the impression that the Israeli elector voted for peace when he voted for Yitzhaq Rabin. Will the desire to give this impression turn into real political actions?

Planned Meeting of Islamic Groups in U.S. Noted

NC0312162592 Cairo ROSE AL-YUSUF in Arabic 30 Nov 92 pp 6-8

[Report by Hamdi Ring: "The Formation of a Jihad Government in America"]

[Text] Dr. 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman, mufti of the al-Jihad Organization, is just one step away from declaring an al-Jihad government-in-exile in the United States. He has been living in New Jersey for the past two years.

Al-Jihad's mufti is passing his time giving press interviews in which he hands down religious rulings advocating terror, declares tourism to be religiously banned, and says that the Americans—in whose country he lives—are satans and no one should deal with them. His remarks, preserved on cassette recordings and in newspaper clippings, are being circulated secretly among members of the Islamic Group in Cairo and Upper Egypt.

According to information available to ROSE AL-YUSUF through its own sources within the Islamic Group, Dr. 'Abd-al-Rahman sent instructions a month ago to Islamic Group leaders in Peshawar, a Pakistani town close to the Afghan border, to join him in New Jersey. Dr. 'Abd-al-Rahman is expected to return to New Jersey this week following a long tour of mosques in San Francisco and Ottawa. The arrival of Islamic Group members in New Jersey will permit the convocation of the first underground conference of the two extremist organizations in the United States.

The list of leaders invited to New Jersey includes Mustafa Hamzah, leader of the Islamic Group in Biba, near Beni Suwayf, who is known in Peshawar as "Abu-Hazim" and is one of 26 defendants being tried in the Afghanistan Revolutionaries Organization case by the Alexandria Military Court; 'Abd-al-'Aziz Musa al-Jamal; Taf'at Qasim; Rifa'i Ahmad Taha; and 'Uthman al-Samman. The list also includes a young physician named Ayman al-Zawahiri, who acts as Dr. 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman's envoy to Tehran, and al-Zawahiri's friend Shawqi al-Islambuli. Al-Zawahiri and al-Islambuli currently live in Peshawar, where they supervise the publication of AL-MURABITUN magazine, a mouthpiece of the Islamic Group. In its recent edition, which appeared at the beginning of this hegira month of Jamada-al-Ula [month as published; date equivalent to 25 October], the paper announces the call for the aforesaid meeting.

According to the same sources, the meeting will be held at the beginning of the next hegira month in the large hall at al-Fath Mosque in New Jersey. The meeting will examine the future of the fragile alliance between the al-Jihad Organization and the Islamic Group, the two leading organizations in the current extremist scene in Egypt.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Rahman received information that 'Abbud al-Zumur, head of al-Jihad Organization's military wing, who is serving a sentence in Turah Prison, wishes to reconcile with Dr. 'Abd-al- Rahman. A rift developed in 1984 between al-Zumur and Dr. 'Abd-al-Rahman over the leadership of the Shura [Consultative] Council of the Islamic Movement. This later spawned the al-Jihad Movement and the Islamic Group. The rift was described in newspaper articles as the battle of the prisoner and the blind.

The underground conference also will discuss ways to transport groups of Egyptian-Afghans [Egyptian fundamentalist fighters who took part in the war in Afghanistan] to Sarajevo to fight on the Muslims' side in Bosnia-Hercegovina. Egyptian security circles have monitored the arrival of the first group of Egyptian-Afghans in Sarajevo, but the identity of their leaders is not yet known.

The move from Peshawar to Sarajevo was based on a religious ruling issued by Dr. 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman. The ruling, which was recorded on a 90-minute cassette which arrived in Cairo and, of course, in Afghanistan, formed part of a famous sermon which he delivered at an Ottawa Mosque about two months ago. In his sermon, he called for offering blood and money in defense of the Muslims of Bosnia, saying that anyone who neglects this

duty is an atheist and rejects jihad. Following this sermon, there was an altercation between a Palestinian group which was present and Dr. 'Abd-al-Rahman's supporters over who deserved more care and blood sacrifice—the Muslims of the intifadah or the Muslims of Bosnia. Canadian police stopped the altercation and arrested the rioters, including Dr. 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman, on whom was found $40,000 in donations collected from those who attended the sermon.

With the approval of the local authorities in New Jersey, which already have given him a green card at the request of al-Fath Mosque there, Dr. 'Abd-al-Rahman will explain the future movement of the Afghan groups between Yemen, Saudi Arabia, Cairo, and Khartoum. Saudi authorities recently revoked the permit given to regional travel coordinator Usamah Bin-Ladin, in accordance with which passports had been issued for those sponsored by his agency or the agency of his major contracting company, in which two of his brothers are partners. These two brothers recently secured a royal contract to expand the royal palace.

Information indicates that Dr. 'Abd-al-Rahman has chosen Muhammad 'Abd-al-Mu'tamid, amir of the al-Jama'ah Group in Tandah in Asyut, as a substitute for Usamah Bin-Ladin. 'Abd-al-Mu'tamid, also known as 'Akashah or Mis'ab, is now in Sanaa, where he receives the al-Jihad members who escape across the Egyptian-Sudanese border and the Egyptian-Libyan border to the West. Shaykh Mis'ab gives these people forged Yemeni and Saudi passports so they can enter Saudi Arabia under the protection of Bin-Ladin, who then sends them to Turkey. The Turkish Justice Party has agreed with Dr. 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman on hosting some of these elements for a period in Turkey. The Turkish Justice Party also sponsors the annual conference of the International Muslim Brotherhood Organization in February each year.

The third topic which Dr. 'Abd-al-Rahman will discuss with those he calls the elite group of strugglers is the al-Jama'ah's upcoming plan in Upper Egypt regarding the intensive security campaign against its elements, who hide among the plantations there. The plan also concerns Interior Minister Maj. Gen. 'Abd-al-Halim Musa's rejection of Dr. 'Abd-al-Rahman's proposal sent by fax from New Jersey. In his proposal, Dr. 'Abd-al-Rahman stresses his readiness to stop the terrorist operations against tourism in return for a lifting of the security siege on Upper Egypt's extremists. Dr. 'Abd-al-Rahman considers this siege an escalation requiring a counter-escalation by the extremists. The conference [in New Jersey] will discuss the adoption of further appropriate measures in light of the success of the recent operations against tourist buses in Dayrut and Qina.

Al-Jama'ah sources in Cairo are unanimous that this conference will represent a new leap, which they await impatiently, toward escalating their activity against the Egyptian authorities. It has been observed that Dr. 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman has issued few rulings regarding internal matters in Egypt since he left Cairo in February in 1990. Now, he will make a comeback at this very important conference.

On the other hand, Egyptian security sources expect this conference to fail, but this expectation is not based on any possible intervention by U.S. authorities to prevent these extremists from entering the United States. The U.S. authorities have a list of the names of these extremists given to them by the Egyptian Interior Ministry. They also are aware of these extremists' support for their major sponsor Dr. 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman. Egyptian security sources expect this conference to fail for internal reasons connected with the role of 'Abbud al-Zumur and Safwat 'Abd-al-Ghani in the alliance which this conference will form.

There are rumors that Safwat 'Abd-al-Ghani will become the leader of the military wing of the alliance if al-Jihad is merged with the Islamic Group. But will 'Abbud al-Zumar agree to work under the younger and less experienced Safwat? Will Dr. 'Abd-al-Rahman be content with the role of the spiritual guide of the Islamic revolution in Egypt, as was the case with Ayatollah Khomeyni? There are many similarities between the two, such as the place of exile (Khomeyni in Paris and 'Abd-al-Rahman in the United States) and the means of communications, the cassette. Will the doctor return to Cairo, which does not welcome him at present despite the statements of [Interior Minister] Major General 'Abd-al-Halim Musa that negotiations were held with the U.S. side to extradite him? We can't see how this could be done now that Dr. 'Abd-al-Rahman has obtained the "green card." This card allows him to stay in the United States until 1995 and "automatically" gives him U.S. citizenship, which Dr. 'Abd-al-Rahman wants to get today, not tomorrow.

Information within the Group points to a reconciliation between Dr. 'Abd-al-Rahman and 'Abbud al-Zumar after a long estrangement. But this information points at the same time to great fear over the struggle between the 'Abbud group—which was formed in Turah Prison by those who took part in the stand incident (October 1981) [assassination of President Anwar al-Sadat] and which is backed by Muhammad Shawqi al-Islambuli and Ayman al-Zawahiri—and the group led by Safwat—also in the same camp (Turah Prison)—who is fervently accepted by al-Jihad circles in the country because of his violent methods and boldness in carrying out assassination operations, especially the assassination of [former People's Assembly Speaker] al-Mahjub and Faraj Fudah; a boldness and degree of publicity that have been remarkably absent from the organization since the stand incident.

The Safwat front is confident of getting Dr. 'Abd-al-Rahman's support in light of the latter's close ties with the Islamic Group's mujahidin, who operated in Afghanistan and included Dr. 'Umar's own two sons (Muhammad and 'Abdallah). Safwat regards these mujahidin as

his backers and supporters in his war against the security organs, as he has hinted in previous press interviews.

Egyptian security circles are asking one question about this slated meeting: Will the U.S. authorities allow the al-Jihad leaders to enter its territory to meet Dr. 'Abd-al-Rahman? A senior security official told me: We have complete lists of the extremists outside Egypt. They do not number more than 800. Their names are on the waiting lists at Egyptian airports and ports. He could not say, however, whether the U.S. authorities have copies of these lists.

He also said: The people whom Dr. 'Abd-al-Rahman has asked to meet travel on valid Sudanese and Yemeni passports, but with codenames that are difficult to uncover. Hence it will be easy for these people to enter the United States, particularly as al-Fath Mosque and its management have the right to invite whomever they wish from Islamic communities to hold open seminars and meetings. These people can come for a limited period, normally for no more than three months. Dr. 'Abd-al-Rahman probably will follow this course in inviting these leaders, who are converging on Ankara at present en route to New Jersey.

Apart from the security organs's speculations, we confirm that the U.S. authorities will allow all these leaders to enter, as their leader was allowed to enter, and will try to get to know them better from close up, as they did with their blind shaykh, whom they used in their war against communists in Afghanistan and then sheltered in the United States, as undoubtedly they will shelter others.

Further on 'Terrorists' Sentenced to Death

NC0512163092 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1520 GMT 3 Dec 92

[Excerpt] Alexandria, 3 Dec (MENA)—Alexandria's Supreme Military Court today issued the death sentence against eight members of the terrorist organization which includes 26 defendants belonging to Hizbullah, al-Jihad Organization, and the World Islamic Group, who are involved in case no. 24 of 1992.

In the same case, the court also sentenced one defendant to life with hard labor, nine defendants to 15 years of hard labor, and one defendant to 10 years of hard labor.

One other defendant was sentenced to 13 years in prison and three others to five years in prison. Three defendants were acquitted.

Alexandria's Supreme Military Court also ordered the confiscation of all explosives, weapons, and other materials seized with the defendants. [passage omitted]

The court's hearing of the two cases, the first concerning al-Jihad Organization and the second the terrorist organization, lasted 35 days, from 29 October until today 3 December, during which the court held 26 sessions. The defendants were represented by 56 lawyers, 41 engaged by the defendants and 15 appointed by the court at the state's expense to defend those who could not engage a lawyer. [passage omitted on background to sentencing decision]

The sentences passed in Case 24 1992 on the terrorist organization included death sentences for eight defendants, seven of whom are fugitives. They are: Muhammad Shawqi al-Islambuli, Mustafah Marzih, Rifa'i Musa, 'Uthman al-Sammam, Ahmad Nawawah, Taf'at Hammam, and Fu'ad Qasim. The eighth defendant sentenced to death was Sharif Hasan, who appeared in court.

Sentences in the same case included life with hard labor for defendant Sha'ban 'Id and 15 years with hard labor for the following nine defendants: Hisham Mursi, Hani al-Sharbini (one of the defendants in the case of the assassination of former People's Assembly Speaker Dr. Rif'at al-Mahjub), Muhammad Sa'd 'Abduh, Ashraf Badawi, 'Isa Dabruj, Jamal Muhsib, Ibrahim 'Abd-al-Rasul, Abu-Bakr Ibrahim (Sudanese and a fugitive), and Hasan Hamid.

Sentences in the same case included 10 years with hard labor for defendant Isabil 'Abd-al-Fattah, 15 years imprisonment for defendant Ahmad Nasir Dakrun, and five years imprisonment for defendants 'Ala' Hamid Ibrahim, Fu'iz 'Id 'Abd-al-Rahman, and Muhammad 'Abbas Sulayman.

The acquittals involved Usamah Hasan, Khilaf 'Abd-al-Sami', and Jamil Sadiq.

The Military Prosecution immediately moved, taking the defendants to the prisons to start their sentences. Those sentenced to death were also taken to prison. Their sentences will be submitted to the president to approve before they are implemented.

Energy Minister Says Uranium Ore Discovered

NC0412110192 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0951 GMT 4 Dec 92

[Excerpt] Cairo, 4 Dec (MENA)—Minister of Electricity and Energy engineer Mahir Abazah has said that uranium ore has been discovered in four sites in Egypt—Jabal Jilzar [place-name as received] in al-Gharidaqah, the al-Mamahat al-'Arabiyah [place-name as received] area between Safaja and Qina, the southeast of Aswan, and the Abu Zanimah area in southern Sinai. In an exclusive statement to the Cairo newspaper AL-MASA', he said that the discovered quantities are sufficient to meet the needs of the Egyptian nuclear program for peaceful purposes for a long time. He said that these sites are being developed for maximum use.

Abazah said that legislative rules governing nuclear activities will be prepared to protect man and environment from any dangers that might result from the use of nuclear energy. [passage omitted]

Libya

Envoy Gives al-Qadhdhafi Message From Mubarak

NC0312145792 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1410 GMT 3 Dec 92

[Text] Tripoli, 3 Dec (MENA)—Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Libyan revolution, today received a verbal message from President Husni Mubarak during a meeting with Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif, who currently is visiting Libya. Al-Sharif told a MENA correspondent in Tripoli that the message deals with President Mubarak's efforts to contain the crisis between Libya and the Western countries. He said that President Mubarak's efforts involve contacts with U.S. officials in the current and future administrations, with British Prime Minister John Major, and with French President Francois Mitterrand on the U.S. aircraft that crashed over Lockerbie and the French UTA crash.

Al-Sharif said that Egypt is eager to brief its brothers in Libya on all aspects of its efforts. He expressed President Mubarak's appreciation of the General People's Congress decision on an acceptable solution to the Western-Libyan problem and Libya's announcement that it has no intention of defying the international community, that it adheres to international charters and laws, and that it wants to highlight the facts of the case through dialogue and understanding.

Al-Sharif met with 'Umar al-Muntasir, secretary of the General People's Committee for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation, (foreign minister) and with Ibrahim Battar, secretary of the General People's Committee on Justice and Public Security. Al-Sharif, who arrived in Tripoli last night, is expected to return to Cairo this evening via Tobruk.

Al-Qadhdhafi Addresses Students on World Issues

LD0112211492 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1615 GMT 1 Dec 92

[Excerpts] Tripoli, 1 Dec (JANA)—The brother leader of the revolution had a meeting yesterday with students of the Economics and Political Science Faculty at al-Fatih University. During the meeting, the leader presented analyses of a number of political changes witnessed in the world concerning the Libyan citizen who exercises authority and makes policy in the state of the masses through his people's congresses in communes.

The brother leader of the revolution stressed the inevitability of the downfall and collapse of the capitalist system. In his meeting yesterday with the students of the Economics and Political Science Faculty, he said that under no circumstances and no matter what they do is it possible to stop the downfall and the collapse of that system after it reaches its summit, and there is no solution other than changing the capitalist system into a socialist system in which wealth is distributed to all the people, decisions are made by everyone, and injustices are removed from all groups.

The brother leader of the revolution announced that preparations are currently under way in the Great Jamahiriyah to receive 1,000 children from Bosnia-Hercegovina. He said this at a meeting with students of the Economics and Political Science Faculty at al-Fatih University.

The brother leader of the revolution said that we will lead the world to real change through the jamahiriyah theory and with the fundamental solutions made by the masses. At his meeting with the students of the Economics and Political Science College at al-Fatih University, the leader added that we represented the real forces for changing the world, which would change spontaneously as predicted in the Green Book.

The brother leader of the revolution stressed that a new world order will be created by peoples and not imposed on them, and that all the changes which have taken place in the world had strengthened the stance of the jamahiri system and confirmed the validity of its ideology.

He said that the political pluralism called for by the so-called new world order had destroyed and torn apart nations and had turned their efforts into class, national, tribal, and sectarian conflicts.

The brother leader of the revolution said that maintenance of peace in the world has been achieved by the force of arms and mutual terror following a tragic and dramatic incident; namely World War II, and not as a result of a natural civilized development. [passage omitted]

The brother leader of the revolution stressed that a country that represents an international terrorist force cannot constitute an occupation force outside its territories and would not be able to change the world however many missiles and bombs it has, because the sovereignty of faith requires conviction before fear, and it would never be able to do that.

At his meeting with the students of the Economics and Political Science Faculty at al-Fatih University, he said that fearful, naive, superficial people, and those who are weak economically, politically, and ideologically are the ones who believed that the world had no option but to accept the so-called New World Order which had left the world theater after creating bloody and destructive conflicts. He pointed to what is taking place in the former Yugoslavia, Algeria, Somalia, and various regions torn apart by similar conflicts.

The leader said that the result of the U.S. elections baffled those who had believed that nothing would change. This was after the U.S. people turned inward to

solve their economic problems of unemployment, inflation, and high cost of living, as well as combating cancer and AIDS.

The brother leader of the revolution said that the disintegration of the USSR as a counter-force put the agent governments in the middle in a dilemma in view of the weakness of their position. Consequently, they stuck even more closely to the United States which was playing the role of international policeman and dictating to them whatever it was promoting, calling this the New World Order. [passage omitted]

Libyan Opposition Conference Held in Geneva

PM0412110092 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 3 Dec 92 p 4

[Unattributed report: "Conference for Libyan Opposition in Geneva; 'Coordination Committee' Including Al-Hasi"]

[Text] London, AL-HAYAH—A meeting called "the general conference for Libyan democratic forces" was held in Geneva. It endorsed a general declaration of principles and elected a leading committee called the "national coordination committee" comprising Major 'Abd-al-Mun'im al-Huni (former Revolution Command Council member and foreign minister), 'Izz-al-Din al-Ghadamsi (former Libyan ambassador to Vienna), 'Abdallah Sharaf-al-Din (former lawyers' union head), Nuri al-Kaykhi (Democratic National Grouping), Bashir al-Rabiti (Libyan National Organization), Fadil al-Mas'udi (Libyan Democratic Party), and Khalifah Kurayban (Libyan National Movement).

The conference's final statement included a "condemnation of Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi's intention to evacuate 100,000 Libyan families." And it called on "international and Arab organizations to intervene to secure the unconditional release of political prisoners in Libya." It emphasized "adherence to the democratic option and independent national decisionmaking," in addition to working "to achieve complete national unity."

The conference was held at the invitation of a preparatory committee headed by Salih Jawdah. It was attended by a "large number of independents and organizations." At the beginning of the conference Jawdah said that "uniting democratic national forces' efforts is very important in order to restore struggle and organizational vitality and effectiveness...and also helps to determine our influential capabilities and the resources available to us."

Sudan

Peace Talks Envoy on U.S. Forces in Somalia

EA0312215692 Khartoum SUNA in English 1658 GMT 3 Dec 92

[Excerpts] Nairobi, 3 December (SUNA)—Spokesman of the government delegation to the Abuja peace talks, Dr 'Ali al-Hajj, has affirmed that the government participation in the second round of Abuja will be on the basis of the agreement achieved by the two sides during the first round of talks as regards that peace shall be reached in the context of the united Sudan and under a federal system of government. At a press conference he held in Nairobi Thursday, Dr. al-Hajj said the government regards as necessary the participation of all the outlaws' factions in the coming round of Abuja peace talks on ground that peace cannot be achieved while a faction still holds arms. [passage omitted]

Responding to a question on Sudan's rejection of U.S. plan to move forces to Somalia, Dr al-Hajj indicated that such a matter would cause international anarchy, non-respect of national sovereignty and new form of imperialism.

He further affirmed that the need for food materials in war- affected areas in the South will not prevent Sudan's delivery of relief materials to some African countries.

Foreign Troops in Somalia Unjustified

EA0312213592 Omdurman Sudan Broadcasting Service Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 3 Dec 92

[Station commentary]

[Excerpt] Ladies and gentlemen, since the outbreak of the Somali crisis, Sudan has been calling for the Somali issue to be solved peacefully, within the framework of the OAU charter, and through the agreement of all the warring Somali factions. Consequently, Sudan finds no justification for the use of foreign forces in Somali territories, whatever the excuses. Our colleague al-Zubayr 'Uthman Ahmad deals with this issue in the radio commentary on the news.

[Zubayr] At his meeting with leaders of information and press organs, Lieutenant General 'Umar al-Bashir, chairman of the Revolution Command Council and the Council of Ministers, described the plans to send American and international forces to Somalia as an unexpected escalation of the situation and an entrenchment of instability that hampers peace efforts led by the states of the region. This opinion of Sudan is not a new one for, ever since the outbreak of the situation in Somalia, Sudan has been calling for issue to be solved within the framework of the states of the region which are directly affected by the course of events in Somalia, reflecting their security, political, social, and economic conditions. Sudan was and still is fully convinced of the possibility of solving the Somali problem peacefully within the framework of the OAU charter.

Hence, Sudan views the dispatch of American and international forces to Somalia, of a size that has been reported by the international news agencies, as unjustified and part of an international conspiracy aiming for a military presence in the Horn of Africa region, which overlooks the most important waterway in the world, in order to secure a Western presence in the Arab region

that is rich in sources of petroleum energy. The dispatch of these forces to Somalia is a form of foreign interference in internal affairs which is strongly opposed by the sons of the Somali people and the states of the region which perceive the danger and sensitivity of the situation. [passage omitted]

Leadership Set Up Camps To Train 'Terrorists'

NC0312121892 Cairo AL-AHRAM PRESS AGENCY in Arabic 1230 GMT 3 Dec 92

[Text] Cairo, 3 Dec (AL-AHRAM PRESS AGENCY)—Former Sudanese Labor Minister George Kinga [name and title as received] said that the Sudanese leadership last year established seven camps to train large numbers of terrorists and direct them toward Egypt and certain Arab Maghreb countries. The minister resigned his post in Lieutenant General 'Umar al-Bashir's government last September to protest the faulty policy of and the widespread corruption and bribery in the Sudanese Government.

Kinga said that these camps are located outside Khartoum, particularly along the Sudanese-Libyan border. He said that the al- Turabi-led Islamic Front has spent millions of dollars to set up these camps with the assistance of Iranian Revolutionary Guards, who are in charge of leading and training the members of the al-Jihad Organization and other extremist groups in Egypt, Tunisia, Algeria, Afghanistan, and Iran, in addition to other elements from other Arab states. These elements are receiving rigorous training in various types of fighting, violent acts, and assassinations. They are being sent almost daily to Egypt and certain targeted countries to carry out urgent terrorist operations, he said.

Kinga added that the Islamic Front, led by Hasan al-Turabi—who controls matters in Sudan—harbors fierce hostility toward Egypt. This has led it to spare no means in causing trouble for and angering Egypt, he said, explaining that this was clearly demonstrated during Sudanese cabinet meetings, which he attended personally. He noted that al-Bashir used to order his ministers during these meetings to cause trouble for Egypt, particularly by raising the issue of Hala'ib or by feeding terrorist camps with extremist elements.

Former Minister on Terrorism, Iran's Involvement

NC0312163292 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1455 GMT 3 Dec 92

[Text] Cairo, 3 Dec (MENA)—Former Sudanese Labor Minister George Logakwa, who resigned in September, has said that the Sudanese leadership established seven camps terrorist training camps last year. He added that the terrorists were to be sent to Egypt and other Arab Maghreb countries. In a statement to the Cairo AL-AHRAM AL-MASA'I newspaper today, Logakwa said that these camps are located outside Khartoum, primarily along the Sudanese-Libyan border. He said that the Islamic Front, led by Hasan al-Turabi, has spent several million dollars building these camps and has received help from the Iranian Revolutionary Guards. The Iranian Revolutionary Guards train al-Jihad Organization members and other extremist groups before they are sent to Egypt, Tunisia, Algeria, Afghanistan, Iran [as received] and other Arab countries. He said that these groups receive training on all forms of combat, acts of violence, and assassinations. He added that these members are sent to Egypt and other countries almost everyday to carry out terrorist acts.

Logakwa revealed that members of the Sudanese leadership and Islamic Front have received more than $30 million from Iran since the middle of last year. He added that these funds were transferred to the personal accounts of al-Turabi and his aides in banks in London to finance terrorist operations. He continued that Hasan al- Turabi's Islamic Front, which rules Sudan, harbors a deep hatred for Egypt. He said that the Islamic Front tried every conceivable way to cause trouble to Egypt, saying: This was obvious in the Sudanese cabinet meetings I attended. Sudanese leader al-Bashir ordered his ministers to create trouble and problems for Egypt by raising the Hala'ib problem and providing terrorist camps with extremists.

Garang Said To Receive Israeli Weapons

NC0312200392 Cairo AL-AHRAM PRESS AGENCY in Arabic 1858 GMT 3 Dec 92

[Text] Cairo, 3 Dec (AL-AHRAM PRESS AGENCY)—In its issue to be published tomorrow, the newspaper AL-SHA'B, mouthpiece of the Labor Party, publishes this report: Sudanese sources have affirmed that John Garang has obtained new shipments of Israeli weapons via Kenya. The sources said that negotiations between the rebel leadership and Israeli arms traders and officials took place in the Israeli Embassy in Kenya in October. The talks resulted in the rebels being provided with large quantities of ammunition, Uzi machine guns, mortars, and antitank and anti-armor guns similar to the American TOW rockets. Some 400 TOW rockets were en route to Garang from the United States before customs officials discovered them in Florida. AL-SHA'B has learned that the Sudanese leadership is studying Western moves and pressures on the domestic situation in Sudan on the pretext of protecting human rights and their attempts to curtail Sudan's influence in neighboring African countries.

Kuwait

Defense Agreements With Russia, PRC Planned

LD0312223092 Kuwait Radio Kuwait in Arabic 2100 GMT 3 Dec 92

[Text] Defense Minister Shaykh 'Ali Sabah al-Salim has stressed that Kuwait will bolster its friendship with all countries, particularly the permanent members of the UN Security Council, and to that end it has made contacts with Russia and China to sign defense agreements with them, similar to those signed with the United States, Britain, and France.

In statements to the KUWAITI NEWS AGENCY in London, the defense minister said that strengthening relations with all countries constitutes a protective shield for Kuwait in facing the ambitions of the Iraqi regime. Shaykh 'Ali Sabah al-Salim, who is currently on a visit to Britain, said that agreement had been reached for the purchase of the British Warrior and Piranha armored vehicles. In that context, he stressed that Kuwait's decision to select the U.S. Abrams tank was due to its suitability to the climate in Kuwait.

Regarding the military projects of the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] member-states, Shaykh 'Ali Sabah al-Salim pointed out that, at their recent meeting in Kuwait, defense ministers of the GCC member-states made three proposals that will be submitted to the GCC summit conference due to be held in Abu Dhabi this month. The proposals include setting up a unified Gulf army of 100,000 combatants, [word indistinct] the peninsula shield [as heard], and reinforcing the armed forces of each of the six GCC states.

Joint U.S.-Kuwaiti Armed Forces Exercise Ends

LD0112223792 Kuwait Radio Kuwait in English 1850 GMT 1 Dec 92

[Text] Kuwaiti-American joint exercises codenamed Intrinsic Action A-93 concluded here today. The Army Deputy Chief of Staff, Major-General 'Ali Muhammad al-Mu'min, said after the exercises that similar war games will be jointly conducted with the United States, Britain, France, and GCC [Gulf Cooperation Council] member states. He added that the exercises enhanced the technical standard of the Kuwaiti forces, adding that joint collective actions by the coalition had immensely advanced.

Major-General al-Mu'min said the Ministry of Defense is making every possible effort to upgrade the standard of the Kuwaiti forces both in terms of equality and quantity.

Prohibition of Entry of Foreign Workers Denied

LD0212154392 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1435 GMT 2 Dec 92

[Text] Cairo, 2 Dec (KUNA)—An official source at the Kuwaiti Embassy here has affirmed that the State of Kuwait allows freedom of work and entry according to the laws in operation in the country without any discrimination.

The source denied, in this respect, a report by the Cairo daily AL-AKHBAR quoting some news agencies about a confidential Kuwaiti Government decision prohibiting the entry of a new foreign workforce of Lebanese, Syrian, and Iranian nationals.

The source has categorically denied that report and that any official Kuwaiti source had issued any comment about the alleged report.

Resolutions on Lockerbie Must Be Implemented

LD0312220292 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1350 GMT 3 Dec 92

[Text] Kuwait, 3 Dec (KUNA)—Foreign Affairs Under Secretary Sulayman al-Shahin today reiterated Kuwait's adherence to all the UN Security Council's resolutions on the blowing up of the two western passenger planes [Pan Am and UTA planes] which led to the death of 441 people several years ago.

The UN Security Council had imposed a number of sanctions on Libya for refusing to cooperate with the investigators and hand over to the U.S., British, and French authorities the people suspected of being responsible for the two attacks.

An authoritative source at the Foreign Ministry told KUNA that Al-Shahin reiterated that position during a meeting with the U.S., British, and French ambassadors at their request. The three diplomats presented him with a memorandum specifying the need to implement UN Security Council resolutions 731 and 748 relating to this case and an appeal to the international community to abide by these resolutions.

The source indicated that Al-Shahin affirmed Kuwait's sympathy and understanding for the sufferings of the families of the victims who died in the attacks and that Kuwait is committed to the implementation of the UN Security Council resolutions on this issue.

Both the United States and Britain accuse Libya of being behind the blowing up of the Pan Am plane over the Scottish town of Lockerbie in 1988.

France is also asking the Libyan authorities to cooperate in its investigation into the blowing up of a UTA plane over Niger in 1989.

King Husayn Criticism of Gulf States Viewed

JN0212144492 Kuwait AL-FAJR AL-JADID in Arabic 24 Nov 92 pp 1, 14

[Unattributed report: "King of Jordan Calls For Pluralism in Iraq; Jordanian Cancer Attacks, Accuses Us of Reverting to Primitive Mentality"]

[Text] Amman (Agencies)—King Husayn of Trans-Jordan yesterday, Monday [23 November], called for

political pluralism in Iraq and attacked Gulf states in a manner that shattered chances for public reconciliation with them.

In his second speech to the nation in as many weeks, Husayn clearly stressed the need for national reconciliation in Iraq to spare it pitfalls.

Husayn strongly defended his country's position during the Gulf crisis, when Jordan refused to take part in the military coalition that liberated Kuwait from Baghdad. He stressed the need to maintain Iraq's territorial integrity and national unity.

He said: "We stressed and continue to stress our concern for Iraq's territorial integrity and the unity and freedom of its people. We also stood against foreign interference in its affairs. All that is related to Iraq must be subject to the will of its people, for whom we have always wished what we wish for ourselves and for the Arab people, wherever they may be!"

He added: "What we wish is a national and democratic reconciliation that would enable it to avoid pitfalls, as well as realize a political plurality that will unite rather than divide, that will achieve stability, establish trust among brothers, and lead us all toward integration!"

In his speech at the graduation of the 33d class from the Staff and Command College, Husayn called for the Arab nation's unity and for rejecting any foreign interference in its affairs.

He claimed that Jordan will continue to defend Arab unity and to call for an Arab order, a united Arab state, or a single Arab state, bypassing, as he claims, those Arabs who are motivated by tribal affiliation and arrogance, after they flooded the nation with their oil and bragged about their seats which were restored at the hands of the foreigner, with its lances stained with the blood of their brothers; and unconcerned about he whose arrogance led him to sin.

He also wondered: "Where are the states of Arab unity, their men, and their information, and how can European countries come together in a unity based on trust, cooperation, and mutual respect while we try nothing of the sort?"

Criticizing Kuwait and other Gulf countries which have witnessed the departure of 250,000 Jordanians, and Palestinians holding Jordanian nationality, before and after the Gulf crisis last year, he said: "We wonder how people can change over a short period of time and shift from extreme national commitment to an abyss of regionalism, and, I might as well say, to a very primitive mentality. Things have gotten to the point where we have seen Arabs tyrannically and unjustly evicting fellow Arabs from their countries and robbing them of their rights and dignity, even though they spent their entire lives in their service—and all this without regard for conscience, compassion, or a sense of good-neighborliness."

These extensive and numerous criticisms have removed from the minds of Jordan's detractors any expectations for a possible public apology, which some officials and diplomats said Saudi Arabia demanded from Jordan for its stand on the Gulf crisis.

Contrary to the previous speech, which amazed the Jordanian people with its candid revelations regarding his health situation following surgery to remove a cancerous tumor from his body two months ago, the Jordanian fornicator ['ahir—the Arabic word for monarch is "'ahil." A pun is being used here] failed to mention the condition of his health during this latest address.

Husayn reaffirmed his country's "firm" stand on the Middle East peace talks, asserting the need to find a comprehensive solution to the Palestine question and the Middle East conflict on all fronts, on the basis of Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, which provide for Israeli withdrawal from Arab territory occupied in 1967 in exchange for peace.

Furthermore, Husayn defended a draft Jordanian-Israeli agenda agreement that has not yet been approved. This draft agenda agreement identifies the course of Jordanian-Israeli negotiations within the context of Middle East peace talks.

Many members of the Jordanian parliament, the Islamic Brotherhood, several political and leftist forces, and some Palestinian organizations have vehemently assailed the draft agenda agreement.

The king wondered: "Can the presentation of a draft paper to the two negotiating governments by their delegations, after one year of negotiations, including headlines of the topics of discussion that concern them in order to approve or modify them, be a reason for these acts of one-upmanship, interference, and questioning?"

The king added: "We would like to say without embarrassment or leniency to those who practice one-upmanship against us that we shall not permit any such acts against us from either far or near, or any solution at the expense of this people or this land. We are not a substitute homeland for anyone. We will not relinquish any of our rights, no matter how small these rights are in the eyes of others."

Oman

Navy Commander on Gulf Security, Iran's New Subs

NC0112204992 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1928 GMT 1 Dec 92

[Text] Alexandria, 1 Dec (MENA)—Rear Admiral Shihab Bin-Tariq Al Sa'id, commander of the Omani Navy, has said he hopes the dispute between fraternal Saudi Arabia and Qatar will turn out to be a summer cloud that will be resolved as soon as possible in the same spirit of harmony in which the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] was founded.

In a statement to the press in Alexandria today, Al Sa'id said that Gulf security is the responsibility of its countries and leaders, noting that the regional states' military commands constantly discuss this issue, assess the situation, and submit reports on it to their leaders.

Commenting on Iran's acquisition of a nuclear submarine a few days ago, the Omani Navy commander said: When a country acquires new weapons, it enhances its combat capability. We are following the news of the Iranian submarines. The enhancement of Iran's naval capability makes it necessary for the navies of neighboring countries to be watchful.

The Omani commander asserted that the GCC countries constantly coordinate their efforts and make joint assessments of any threat to the region's security. He pointed out that some friendly countries are concerned with the regional situation and discussions take place with these friends about any new developments with regard to regional armaments.

Saudi Arabia

'Friendly' Atmosphere at Border Talks With Yemen

LD0212220992 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 2 Dec 92

[Excerpts] Dr. Miftah Bin-'Abdallah al-Nafis, chairman of the Saudi side at the the Saudi-Yemeni joint border committee, and his accompanying delegation, members of the committee, arrived in Riyadh this afternoon at 1300 from Sanaa following the conclusion of the third round of talks which was held in Sanaa between 4 and 7 Jumada al-Akhirah 1413 A.H. corresponding to 28 November-1 December 1992. [passage omitted]

The committee has issued the following press release: Joint press release: The Saudi-Yemeni joint border committee held in Sanaa, the third round of the first session [of talks] from 4 Jumada al-Akhirah 1413 A.H. corresponding to 28 November 1992 to 7 Jumada al-Akhirah 1413 A.H. corresponding to 1 December 1992. In the talks the committee reviewed the viewpoints on the effects of the negotiations on the two parties' rights and interests; viewpoints were exchanged on such a matter [as heard] as well as on other topics of concern to the work of the committee. A friendly and fraternal atmosphere prevailed over the meeting; the two sides agreed to continue the talks and the negotiations at the next meeting which will be held in Riyadh in the second half of Rajab 1413 A.H. corresponding to the first half of January 1993. The exact date of the meeting will be fixed at a later date through diplomatic channels, however. [passage omitted]

King Fahd Receives Qatari Foreign Minister

LD0212203892 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 2 Dec 92

[Text] At his office in al-Salam Palace today, King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, the custodian of the two holy mosques, received Shaykh Hamad Bin-Jasim Bin-Jabbur Al Thani, the foreign minister of the State of Qatar.

Health Leads 7 To Retire From Ulema Council

LD0212165592 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1520 GMT 2 Dec 92

[Excerpt] Jeddah, 2 Dec (SPA)—Following the issuing of the royal decree appointing several members to the Council of Senior Ulema, the custodian of the two holy mosques has sent personal letters to the members of this body who are no longer able to carry out their work for health reasons. They are:

1. Shaykh Ibrahim Bin-Muhammad Bin-Ibrahim Al al-Shaykh
2. Shaykh Sulayman Bin-'Ubayd
3. Shaykh 'Abd-al-'Aziz Bin-Salih
4. Shaykh 'Abd-al-Razzaq 'Afifi
5. Shaykh 'Abdallah Khayyat
6. Shaykh 'Abd-al-Majid Hasan
7. Shaykh Salih Bin-Ghusun. [passage omitted]

King Fahd Donates Funds to ICO Secretariat

LD0112224992 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 1 Dec 92

[Text] The custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, has agreed to donate 1.87 million riyals to the Islamic Conference Organization [ICO] General Secretariat. This noble agreement is in support of the ICO, which embraces Islamic world countries, to help it face up to the financial deficit it is suffering from. Within the framework of support for the ICO's institutions and educational programs, the government of the custodian of the two holy mosques gave $1.583 million as the first part of the Kingdom's donation to the Islamic solidarity fund. The Kingdom also gave the sum of $825,000 as the first part of its donation to the Jerusalem Fund, which is part of the ICO. The government of the custodian of the two holy mosques has made financial donations to a large number of Islamic centers, bodies, and institutions throughout the Islamic world within the framework of continuous Saudi support for Islamic actions in the service of the Islamic peoples.

Somali Prime Minister Seeks Conference in State

LD0312115192 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2145 GMT 2 Dec 92

[Excerpts] Riyadh, 2 Dec (SPA)—The prime minister of Somalia, Arteh Ghalib Omar, has expressed his thanks and gratitude to the custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-Aziz Al Sa'ud, for the assistance and aid provided by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to the fraternal Somali people. [passage omitted]

At a news conference today in Riyadh, his excellency the prime minister of Somalia praised the role of the Saudi media in following and highlighting the cause of the Somali people.

His Excellency Arteh Ghalib Omar reviewed the current situation in Somalia and the efforts being exerted to overcome the present circumstances. He spoke about the efforts aimed at holding a conference on national reconciliation among the Somalis, and pointed out that there are several options for convening it in some states, including Saudi Arabia.

He said "we are committed in principle to holding the conference in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia." His Excellency welcomed the international efforts being exerted to bring relief to the victims of starvation in Somalia and concentrated here on the American initiative in this respect.

United Arab Emirates

President Says Muslims, Arabs Ignoring Somalis

NC0112202092 Paris AFP in English 1942 GMT 3 Dec 92

[Text] Abu Dhabi, Dec 3 (AFP)—Muslim states are not doing enough for fellow Muslims in Somalia whereas the West is rushing to their help, the president of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) charged Thursday.

"Arabs and Muslims have ignored their duty to place the misery and sufferings of their brothers in Somalia at the top of their priorities," said Shaykh Zayed Bin-Sultan Al Nahayyan.

Quoted by the official news agency WAM, he charged that Muslim states were "not helping to save the Somali people while foreigners from afar have come to do what those close to Somalia have failed to do."

"Why not give sincere backing to the efforts of the international community and the United Nations?" he asked.

The United Nations Security Council was Thursday set to vote on a massive military operation, backed mainly by U.S. troops, to ensure humanitarian aid deliveries in Somalia.

The Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) meanwhile called for an urgent multiparty U.N.-sponsored meeting on Somalia aimed at finding a "peaceful and global" solution to the civil war and famine in the Horn of Africa nation.

Yemen

Border Talks With Saudi Arabia Adjourn

JN0212211092 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 2 Dec 92

[Text] The third round of the first session of Yemeni-Saudi Border Experts Committee meetings concluded in Sanaa yesterday with the issuing of a joint press statement. The statement says: The Yemeni-Saudi Border Experts Committee met in Sanaa and held the third round of talks within its first session from 4 Jumada al-Akhirah 1413 Hegira, corresponding to 28 November 1992, to 7 Jumada al-Akhirah 1413 Hegira, corresponding to 1 December 1992. During its meetings, the committee reviewed positions on the aspect of negotiations on the rights and interests of both parties. Views were exchanged on this issue and other matters pertaining to the committee's work.

A cordial and brotherly atmosphere prevailed in the meetings, and the two sides agreed to continue their talks and discussions during the next meeting, due to be held in Riyadh in the second half of Rajab 1413 Hegira, corresponding to the first half of January 1993. The two sides will later set a date for the meeting through diplomatic channels.

The Saudi side to the Joint Experts Committee has left Sanaa for Riyadh. It was seen off by the head and members of the Yemeni team.

The Saudi side thanked its brother, the Yemeni side, for the welcome and hospitality it was accorded.

Prime Minister Reportedly Escapes Ambush

NC0312151692 (Clandestine) Voice of Rebellious Iraq in Arabic 1350 GMT 3 Dec 92

[Text] Implementing the people's will of taking revenge against dictator Saddam and his rotten clique, and retaliating against acts of torture perpetrated personally by criminal Muhammad Hamzah al- Zubaydi, the tyrant's prime minister, against our people, a group of our mujahid revolutionary forces, armed with rocket launchers and light weapons, laid an ambush to inflict on him his just punishment. The incident took place while he was traveling from (al-Dur) to the al-Fukud subdistrict within his infamous visit to the al-Nasiriyah Governorate a few days ago. Criminal al-Zubaydi miraculously escaped from the hands of the heroic mujahidin, as he was sheltered by his scoundrel mercenaries.

Our resolute men managed to kill the captain in charge of protecting coward al-Zubaydi and the driver of his car. Our heroes also destroyed two cars for the soldiers of treason [words indistinct] the tyrant's henchmen.

Our reliable sources stressed that Muhammad Hamzah al-Zubaydi, prime minister of Saddam's aggressive regime, met with a number of tribal chiefs gathered by various means from (al-Dur) subdistrict and asked them to pledge allegiance to hypocrite Saddam and hand over the Army members who have fled Saddam's tyranny. Al-Zubaydi also asked that all rivers to the marshlands be cut off, that farms be burned and destroyed, and that scores of families be deported as part of the regime's hostility toward the sons of the marshlands and its genocide against struggles in the south of the country.

Firing Said Near President's Palace 'Last Month'

NC0312152692 (Clandestine) Voice of Rebellious Iraq in Arabic 1350 GMT 3 Dec 92

[Text] There was an exchange of fire for several hours near the presidential palace in Baghdad late last month. During and after the exchange, the so-called emergency forces of the 'Affiqiun were observed moving in a disorderly way toward the palace. The [words indistinct] cliques of the Saddamite guards in Baghdad rushed to surround the regions of ('Alul Shimali), al-Mathanna airport, and the tomb of the unknown soldier.

The clique of Saddamite charlatans failed in those incidents to control their media. Baghdad television was in confusion, broadcasting songs and films without presenting the regular evening newscast.

Saddam Holds Dialogue With Ba'thists, Tribesmen

JN0312212092

[Editorial Report] Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic at 1920 GMT on 3 December carries a 42-minute poorly-received recording of remarks by President Saddam Husayn and others during an awards ceremony for Ba'th Party members, tribal chieftains, and citizens in appreciation of their role in confronting an "agent clique of treasonous infiltrators" who assassinated a Ba'th Party "struggler" in al-Rifa'i District in Dhi Qar Governorate. The date of assassination is not specified.

Saddam begins his remarks by paying tribute to Dhi Qar Governorate and its history and contribution to the Ba'th Party. He praises those attending for being able to "avenge" the assassinated party member, and thanks to present the needs of their area.

At 1923 GMT, an unidentified speaker says the tribes of the district request that a road in the area be asphalted and named after the martyr. In response, Saddam says the martyr deserves a road to be named after him.

At 1925 GMT, another unidentified speaker recounts the story of the assassination. He describes the area where the incident and the subsequent clash with infiltrators took place as a marshland. He says that he instructed three armed groups of Ba'th Party members in the area to engage the infiltrators. He brags that five "agents" were killed before the dead party member was buried. He concludes by pledging that the Dhi Qar population will continue to defend the homeland.

At 1930 GMT, another delegation member, who identifies himself as the head of the peasants societies union, praises the "martyr," whom he identifies as member of the peasants organization in the area.

At 1940 GMT, another unidentified speaker narrates how he received the news of the murder of the party member. He says most tribal figures took part in his funeral.

At 1943 GMT, Saddam comments, saying that the weapons that the state distributes are to be used against "foreigners and treacherous ones manipulated by the foreigners." He adds: "I greatly hope that the Iraqi tribes do not use weapons against themselves." He explains that weapons are to be used to safeguard the country, and says that "faithful" Iraqis are dear and should not be lost. He notes: "This is my only comment. God willing, the weapons you want will be delivered to you."

At 1946 GMT, an unidentified speaker pledges allegiance to Saddam on behalf of his tribe. He is followed by another speaker who says that his village needs electricity and other services. In response, Saddam promises that all needs will be met.

At 1948 GMT, an unidentified speaker talks about coordination among tribesmen, police, and Ba'th Party members. Saddam interrupts him by saying says that the Iraqis and the Ba'th Party have learned from their mistakes. The same speaker then gives the names of the tribes that participated in the clash with the infiltrators. He concludes by pledging that tribes will continue to defend the country against any harm.

At 1957 GMT, Saddam asks his audience to extend his greetings to the tribes in Dhi Qar and he pays tribute to their efforts. He says there is a difference between one who dies unnoticed, and another whose funeral is attended by everyone in his area. He attributes this to the principles upheld by Ba'thists. He says the approval of God and the people is the highest merit for which one can aspire.

The recording concludes at 2002 GMT.

Opposition Figure on 'Partition,' 'Strategies'

NC0412105992 Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic 0610 GMT 4 Dec 92

["Telephone interview" with Muhammad Bahr-al-'Ulum, member of the United Iraqi National Congress Presidential Council, in London, by correspondent Fawzi al-Jundi, in Cairo, on the "Dialogue from Afar" program; date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Al-Jundi] Mr. Bahr-al-'Ulum, welcome to the answers of the Voice of the Arabs.

[Bahr-al-'Ulum] Thank you. We hope your radio will play an effective role with regard to our main cause, Iraq, and the ruling regime, which weighs heavy on the oppressed Iraqi people.

[Al-Jundi] Mr. Bahr-al-'Ulum, let's begin our dialogue with a talk about the Presidential Council formed by the United Iraqi National Congress held recently in Salah al-Din in northern Iraq. What strategy is the Iraqi opposition pursuing to remove Saddam Husayn's regime?

[Bahr-al-'Ulum] This strategy is summed up as follows:

1. To unify the Iraqi opposition ranks and views in one trench to create change in Iraq;

2. To keep continuous contacts with the Arab forces that support our cause in the grave circumstances through which the Iraqi people are passing; and

3. To use all our capabilities and efforts to persuade the world to abandon Saddam and his fascist regime and to turn attention to the tragic conditions prevailing in the southern, northern, and central regions of Iraq.

This is our strategy to overthrow the regime and establish a constitutional, just, and democratic rule in Iraq.

[Al-Jundi] Mr. Muhammad Bahr-al-'Ulum, the Iraqi opposition, which has intensified its activities against Saddam Husayn's regime, has always been keen on safeguarding Iraq's unity and on rejecting the partitioning of Iraq. We wish to stress this point.

[Bahr-al-'Ulum] Doubtless you know of the announcements made during the congress sessions and of the dialogues and deliberations made by the brothers, the members of the United Iraqi National Congress. All these statements stressed the rejection of Iraq's partition and division. We decided to give the Kurdish brothers the right to self-determination, but without secession. We will not, under any circumstances, work to partition the homeland. Saddam Husayn has been doing that. We reject this stand. We hope the Arab brothers, particularly Arab Egypt, will support us on this.

[Al-Jundi] So it can be said this Iraqi opposition desire is illustrated by the membership of this Presidential Council, which includes Mas'ud Barzani, yourself, and Major General Hasan al-Naqib?

[Bahr-al-'Ulum] With this makeup, we emphasized that Iraq will not be partitioned. It is a geographical division of the Iraqi opposition efforts. Partition will generate only ruin, because Iraq's status cannot endure any kind of partition.

[Al-Jundi] Mr. Bahr-al-'Ulum, do you believe the Iraqi opposition has invigorated its ties with some countries? Or does this opposition need further foreign assistance?

[Bahr-al-'Ulum] Actually, the United Iraqi National Congress is trying hard to maintain close contact with the chief Arab countries. We will never keep away from these countries, which we consider to be the force giving us the impetus in our struggle to overthrow the regime. We are diligently working to get the backing of other regional powers, which could form an integral part of achieving Arab and Islamic unity. We are working to lay down a basic strategy to get the support of the regional powers and the Arab countries.

[Al-Jundi] As a member of the Presidential Council, can you tell us about some of the Iraqi opposition factions' future strategies?

[Bahr-al-'Ulum] We seek a constitutional, pluralistic, parliamentarian system in Iraq. We want a country where the supremacy of law and justice prevail. We want a country that could solve all its problems with its neighbors peacefully, that could renounce any aggression or attack, that could strengthen the ties of amity with the Arab and Islamic countries, and that could safeguard our basic interests.

[Al-Jundi] We wish you luck and thank you.

[Bahr-al-'Ulum] Many thanks to our Arab radio, the Voice of the Arabs, which always defends the oppressed Arab voice. We implore God to protect Arab and Islamic unity.

Defense Minister Attends Military Exercise

JN2911180592 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 29 Nov 92

[Text] Fighter Staff General 'Ali Hasan al-Majid, member of the Revolution Command Council and defense minister, attended a tactical exercise in which live ammunition was used. The exercise was conducted by the Ibn-al-Walid formation of Salah-al-Din Forces.

which demonstrated heroic national and pan-Arab feats, as well as bold deeds in battle, in the al-Yarmuk Forces' operations sector. The exercise involved armor and artillery men and other support corps.

At the beginning of the exercise, the commander of Saladin Forces, who holds the rank of staff brigadier general, and his staff officers made a detailed briefing on the plan and the duties assigned to the units.

Knesset Decision Step Toward PLO Recognition

TA0312165692 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 3 Dec 92

[Excerpts] The Knesset decision to repeal the ban on meetings with PLO officials is a preparatory move prior to Israeli recognition of the PLO, Taysir al-'Aruri, adviser to the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks, told IDF radio today in a telephone conversation from Amman via Solon Communications. Al-'Aruri called on Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin to show greater flexibility in the talks which will resume next week in Washington. Eldad Berk, our Arab affairs correspondent, spoke with al-'Aruri:

[Begin Berk recording] Taysir al-'Aruri says unequivocally: Yesterday's Knesset decision will assist the peace process. Any Israeli decision aimed at advancing realistic normalization of relations between the sides will help the process. [passage omitted]

Al-'Aruri said that the Knesset resolution is a step in the right direction since there was no logical justification to preventing links between Israel and the PLO. The resolution will have a positive impact on the peace process since the Palestinians see it as a preparatory move which would lead to direct PLO participation in the peace process. That means preparation for Israeli recognition of the PLO.

Does the latest pronouncements by Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin point to greater Israeli flexibility on the talks with the Palestinians? [passage omitted]

At present that cannot be said, al-'Aruri answered. We will wait and see what the Israelis raise at the negotiating table, but I hope the Israeli Government, and the prime minister, adopt more flexible positions which will help advance the peace process and break the current deadlock, he added. What is needed is flexibility on the foundations of the negotiations and the spirit of the peace process, a readiness to transfer wide-ranging powers to the self-government, and flexibility on the lands issue. There is a need for an Israeli decision on the right of the future Palestinian self-government to rule over all the Palestinian lands captured in 1967.

Can a resumption of the dialogue between the PLO and Washington be expected following the Knesset resolution? [passage omitted]

Al-'Aruri said the Palestinians have raised the issue several times in the past in meetings with representatives of the U.S. State Department and we will do so again in the immediate future. The chances of a resumption of the dialogue are now greater. [end recording]

Lubrani on Peace Talks, Contacts With Lebanon

TA0312194592 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 3 Dec 92

[Interview with Uri Lubrani, head of the Israeli team negotiating with Lebanon by Ya'aqov Sets and Shlomo Ganor; date not given—recorded in the studio in Hebrew with Arabic subtitles]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [Ganor] Are we going to Washington next Monday, 7 December, with new proposals?

[Lubrani] The homework has to be done in Beirut and not by us because we began the dialogue on the military officers. The issue has not been exhausted. It is clear to the Lebanese delegation that when we meet in Washington again next Monday they have to come with something on that. We hope that it will be something that will be able to lead to progress. [passage omitted]

[Ganor] Does your office, you, Israel maintain contacts with the influential groups in Lebanon?

[Lubrani] I will not go into that, of course. I would only like to say that I believe that there is no powerful element in Lebanon that does not maintain contact with us. I will not go into what contacts and what form they take. It is a neighboring country. Lebanon does not have only one neighbor to the East, it has another neighbor, and that is us. We and Lebanon has an interest in knowing what we think, what our intentions are about Lebanon, how we can help to further the interests of the Lebanese community. They maintain links with us, that is natural. Our doors and our ears are open for any such contacts.

[Ganor] Still, you have not satisfied our curiosity. Is Israel maintaining ties with all influential groups or only with some, or a small number of them?

[Lubrani] You will not succeed in getting out of me more than I have already said.

[Ganor] In a general sense, does Israel have a dialogue—direct or indirect—with all the influential groups in the Lebanese arena?

[Lubrani] Yes, either direct and indirect.

[Ganor] Civilian and military?

[Lubrani] Do not insist, you will not succeed.

[Ganor] What comes out of the talks, both the direct and indirect?

[Lubrani] We want to learn, first of all, what the Lebanese community thinks, what it is dealing with, what concerns it, how we should deal with its problems, how they understand things that we might understand differently. It is very important to know. It should be known that we are in touch with many Lebanese on a regular basis. There is a security zone in which members of all sects live—Shiites, all types of Christians, and Druze—and with whom we are in daily contact. We know exactly what they think, but it is not enough for us. We also want to know what people in Beirut think. [passage omitted]

[Ganor] The eyes of the entire world are on the White House and on Bill Clinton's inauguration on 21 January. How will the Lebanese issue feature in the political

activity of the Clinton administration? Allow me to rephrase the question: To what extent will the new administration go on dealing with the Lebanese issue?

[Lahoud] I really do not want to prophesy. It is hard to make predictions or tell what I think the Clinton administration will or will not do. However, I know for a fact that macro U.S. foreign policy has always been bipartisan. In other words, the differences between Democrats and Republicans on basic foreign policy positions have never been too pronounced. What has varied is the personal attitude of individual Republican and Democrat Presidents. Therefore, we should wait and see. I think President-elect Clinton said, both before and after his election, that he intends to support, encourage, and adhere to the peace process, which is what counts. If this is the case, the Lebanese aspect of the peace process will benefit. [passage omitted]

Rabin Sees Diplomatic Dimension in Morocco's Action

TA0312185192 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1800 GMT 3 Dec 92

[Text] Prime Minister Rabin today paid tribute to King Hassan of Morocco for his compassion and understanding in allowing the transfer of the remains of 22 Moroccan Jews who drowned near Gibraltar in 1961 on their way to Israel. The prime minister told Le'a Zinder that he believes there is a diplomatic dimension to King Hassan's gesture.

[Begin recording] [Rabin] I believe by the mere fact that King Hassan showed such greatness and understanding, no doubt symbolizes a better atmosphere, greater confidence that I hope will contribute to the improvement of the atmosphere in the negotiations for peace.

[Zinder] I understand that such a mission was attempted several times in the past and did not succeed. What made it succeed this time?

[Rabin] I hope the fact that the present government of Israel made greater efforts to bring about peace. I believe the capability to keep everything quiet till the moment that the coffins arrived to Israel.

[Zinder] I understand even the families themselves were not informed.

[Rabin] Some of them were not informed before the announcement came on the television and the other means of communication. I believe that we should learn that on certain issues, especially related to the relations between Israel and Arab countries, it's better to achieve results than to make statements. [end recording]

Jerusalem Seeks To Revitalize Multilateral Talks

TA0212073492 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0600 GMT 2 Dec 92

[Report by political correspondent Nezan Guvman]

[Text] Jerusalem is dissatisfied with the multilateral talks' rate of progress. While the bilateral negotiators reconvene regularly to hold uninterrupted talks in Washington, the multilateral track seems unable to take off. The five committees meet every three months for two or three days.

The Foreign Ministry, which is responsible for the multilateral talks, is trying to infuse them with new life, but so far to no avail. Jerusalem has failed in its attempt to upgrade the level of the steering committee on this track to that of foreign ministers, although Israel and Egypt made a unilateral decision to replace their representatives to these talks. Israel will be represented by Deputy Foreign Minister Yossi Beilin, and President Mubarak's adviser Usamah al-Baz will represent Egypt.

The steering committee's talks will be launched in London today, and Israel plans to propose a new mechanism at the level of functionaries, which will establish a feeling of continuity in the multilateral process. The mechanism will consist of a permanent committee that will oversee the progress made in each committee.

Israel will further point out that the negotiators ought to strive to a situation in which the sides will be able to launch long-term projects in any given sphere allowing them to pursue activities in the multilateral track beyond the framework of committee meetings.

Israel will reiterate its call to Lebanon and Syria to join the multilateral talks.

Rabin Criticizes of Meretz Behavior 'Scathing'

TA0312191592 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1800 GMT 3 Dec 92

[Text] Prime Minister Rabin today sharply attacked his Meretz coalition partners for their behavior in the Knesset in recent days. He was speaking at a meeting of the Labor party bureau in Tel Aviv. He warned that unless all parties displayed responsibility there might be no alternative but to opt for a national unity government. Le'a Zinder reports:

[Begin Zinder recording] Addressing the Labor party bureau this evening, Prime Minister Rabin was scathing about the conduct of Meretz in recent days. He was furious that Meretz Knesset Member [MK] Avraham Poraz defied Labor yesterday and brought his bill regulating prostitution to the Knesset for a preliminary vote. And, he is angry with Meretz MK Dedi Zucker for his insistence on bringing the Human Rights Bill to the Knesset. Rabin stressed that these legislative initiatives run counter to promises made by Labor to SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim], and he accused Meretz of irresponsibility. In a thinly veiled threat, the prime minister said the only alternative to a partnership with the ultra-Orthodox is a national unity government.

Tonight the prime minister meets with Labor ministers to discuss the latest coalition crisis. Among the issues

that must be resolved is Meretz MK Yossi Sarid's insistence on a cabinet post now, and SHAS Minister Arye Der'i's demand for the religious affairs ministry in addition to the Interior Ministry which he now holds. Labor sources said today Rabin has promised the Religious Affairs Ministry will remain in Labor hands. The same sources say that all government positions will be filled in a week. Much will depend on the meeting scheduled for tomorrow between Rabin and the leaders of Meretz. [end recording]

Yossi Sarid of Meretz this evening dismissed Premier Rabin's criticism. Sarid said all the legislative measures taken by Meretz during the past week and the Human Rights Bill in particular had been coordinated in full with the government. The other coalition partners had also been taken into account, and there had been constant contacts with them on the bills.

Shamir 'Feeling Fine' After Tumor Removed

TA0412070992 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 4 Dec 92

[Text] Former Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir says he is feeling fine this morning after having a malignant tumor removed by doctors at Tel Hashomer Sheba Hospital yesterday. Shamir got up for a short while last night. Doctors said he would be sent home within a week to 10 days.

15 Gazans Injured in Shots; Curfew Imposed

TA0112144892 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1400 GMT 1 Dec 92

[Text] In the Gaza Strip, 15 residents were injured by IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldiers' gunfire during riots that erupted after a 13-year-old boy was killed in earlier riots. Two border policemen and an IDF soldier were slightly injured by stones and taken for treatment at the Barzilay Hospital in Ashqelon.

Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that the security forces imposed a curfew on the al-Shaykh Radwan neighborhood to restore the order there and in the adjacent al-Shati' refugee camp.

Wanted Man Arrested, Other Incidents in West Bank

TA0112174292 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1700 GMT 1 Dec 92

[Text] In the last few days in Samaria, three wanted men have been arrested and a fourth one has turned himself in. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that Razi Bishara, the commander of a local Fatah gang, was arrested in the village of Tammun near Jenin. He is suspected of possessing weapons and attacking fellow Arabs whom he suspected of collaborating with the authorities.

Amjad 'Awda, a Black Panther squad member, was arrested in the village of Zigda near Tulkarm. He is suspected of attempting to attack Israeli Army troops.

Ahmad Ma'adi, suspected of possessing arms, was arrested in Jenin. 'Ayub 'Awda, the wanted man who turned himself in comes from the village of Tammun and is a member of the Democratic Front. He is suspected of having attacked fellow Arabs.

A 17-year-old youngster was killed today in the Balatah refugee camp near Nablus when the bomb he was assembling exploded. His cohort was seriously wounded.

A firebomb was thrown this evening at a bus driving children near the village of Bani Na'im in the Hebron area. Nobody was hurt. The security forces closed off the area and launched searches.

Report Shows 'Serious Financial Crisis' at IMI

TA0312122392 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 3 Dec 92 pp A1, A10

[Report by defense affairs correspondent Aluf Ben]

[Text] The Israel Military Industries [IMI] have become embroiled in a serious financial crisis, which has led to the dismissal of thousands of its employees, due to mismanagement and wrong decisions made during its conversion from a Defense Ministry subsidiary to a government company. These are the results of an investigation carried out by the Defense Ministry and the Treasury. The probe's findings have been brought to the attention of senior Defense Ministry and Treasury officials and have caused a lot of tension at the top echelons of both ministries. Senior government officials described them as "dynamite," in light of the controversy currently surrounding the recovery plan prepared by the IMI management and the struggle being waged by employees against the expected dismissal of approximately 3,000 workers.

The probe revealed that until 1 November 1990, the day IMI began operating as a company, neither the board of directors nor the Treasury or the government knew the real scope of IMI's financial difficulties, because the IMI management at the time, headed by Mikha'el Shor, did not give them accurate data.

The investigation revealed losses of approximately $300 million, which were not presented in the IMI 1989 financial report. The management artificially inflated company profits by ignoring anticipated losses in multi-year export deals and did not omit large quantities of dead stock. The financial reports of that year were balanced and served as the basis for the company's capital structure. It now transpires that the company did not reveal the truth about its financial situation.

Just before the employees of the subsidiary unit become part of a government company, they received a special salary increase of 12 percent, which failed to take IMI's

financial difficulties into account. The workers claimed that the employees of other subsidiaries that had become companies, such as Bezeq, had received similar wage hikes.

An investigation revealed that the sole source of funding for the wage increase was the dismissal of approximately 1,400 workers, with the endorsement of the employees unions, headed by Shalom Havazelesh. Hundreds of additional workers were fired over the past year in order to finance the continued payment of the wage increase.

The probe discovered serious flaws in the actions of the steering committee, appointed in 1988 by Defense Ministry Director General David Tzvi, which was entrusted with converting IMI into a company. The chairman of the steering committee was Re'uven Kuklevitz, who was Tzvi's assistant at the time and is now head of the Defense Ministry Finance Department. The committee's members were Ilan Plato, then assistant director of the Treasury's Budget Department and now the prime minister's economic adviser, and IMI Deputy Director General Yosef Dessai.

The steering committee did not carry out a professional economic analysis and based its recommendations on IMI's business projections—which were founded on unreliable data. An accumulated loss of approximately $290 million from the years 1985-88 was not even reported to the Finance Ministry. Defense Ministry sources failed in their attempts to analyze the financial reports that were submitted by IMI.

Furthermore, the Government Companies Authority did not bother to carry out its own economic assessment and supported the company's establishment solely on the basis of the steering committee's recommendations.

The government reached its June 1989 decision to turn IMI into a company without having received a report on IMI's true financial situation or any plans from the newly established government company regarding its future business strategy. Furthermore, the government failed to demand such information.

After it was decided to establish the company and appoint a board of directors, IMI continued to operate as a subsidiary unit under the management of Mikha'el Shor for approximately 18 months. Throughout that period, members of the board demanded real information on the financial situation, but management evaded the issue through various excuses. The severity of IMI's situation became known to the board of directors only on the eve of Shor's retirement in 1991. The outgoing director general assumed responsibility for not presenting the data sooner.

Senior Treasury sources blamed their colleagues at the Defense Ministry for having known about IMI's dire straits and for having helped the company management conceal information.

IMI's difficulties began in 1985 with the cut in the defense budget. The management focused on marketing efforts on the overseas market and increased the scope of exports. Despite the losses that began to accumulate that year, however, IMI employees received large salary increments. Between the years 1984 and 1988, the total number of IMI work hours dropped by 10 percent, while the cost of each work hour increased by 70 percent. As a result, starting at the end of 1987, some of the export deals were implemented at a loss.

The heavy losses cost $350 million, which were in the IMI coffers in 1985, and led to the dismissal of about half of IMI's 14,000- member work force from then up until today.

King Husayn Interviewed on Future, Health

JN0312165492 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1520 GMT 3 Dec 92

[Text] Amman, 3 Dec (PETRA)—His Majesty King Husayn has said: We are looking for a comprehensive and just solution to the regional conflict, particularly the Palestinian dimension of the conflict, which must be resolved on Palestinian national soil.

In an interview with AFP, his majesty the king added: Peacemaking in the Middle East should not be the monopoly of one party or more. Hence, the French and European roles are welcomed in this regard.

His majesty the king called for continued Arab contacts and coordination so that we might reach our joint objective of achieving a just and honorable peaceful solution that future generations can accept and safeguard.

His majesty the king added: We will continue our efforts to establish the foundations of an institutionalized state so that the march may continue and so that Jordan may remain an example and a model to be emulated by its brothers and others in the world at large, in terms of the democratic course it is pursuing and its contributions to shouldering responsibilities within the context of the one family we belong to and take pride in.

His Majesty King Husayn went on to say: We support the unity of Iraq—the people and the territory—so that it may enjoy stability and manage to forge a national reconciliation encompassing the Iraqi people who are dear to all of us. Iraq is our support and depth. Iraq is an effective and influential element of the Arab existence.

His majesty the king said that Jordan welcomes the convening of an Arab summit. He hoped that it would be convened in the near future.

His majesty King Husayn affirmed that his health condition is good. He believed that he has recuperated in a manner that neither he nor his doctors believed would be expected in terms of his performance of his work and responsibilities. He affirmed that he is optimistic and assured in this regard.

The following is the text of the interview His Majesty King Husayn granted to AFP:

[AFP] In the aftermath of French President Francois Mitterrand's regional tour and the talks you held with him, are there now clearer features of the role that the EC in general and France in particular could play to advance the peace process, particularly in light of the outcome of U.S. elections?

[Husayn] With respect to the new administration, we must wait for some time to see how the U.S. role in the next phase will be. Personally, I believe that there will be interest in this part of the world and in this issue, and that there will be a positive and constructive role. On the other hand, Europe is close to us. As for France, it has maintained deep-rooted and developed relations with us. It plays a great role in Europe. With respect to peacemaking, it should not be a monopoly for one party or more. Hence, the French and European roles in this regard are welcome. Our interests require that we maintain contacts and coordinate our stands constantly. During the French president's visit, I felt that he was very much interested in what is currently taking place. Of course, the features of the picture have changed, because before tremors shook the world, views were in agreement regarding the need to start a dialogue between us and the parties concerned. It goes without saying that the Palestinian side is basic to handling the regional conflict. This is because it is the basic rights as far as the Arab side is concerned. The reference here is to its rights on its soil.

At that time, discussions focused on the convening of an international conference under the auspices of the five permanent members of the Security Council. Then, we saw these tremors in various parts of the world, not to mention the tremors which shook the region. Consequently, attempts in the new direction started and continued. But, under no circumstances should this mean that France or Europe, for that matter, has no great role to play in this endeavor, that they do not have interests at stake, or that they do not have the enthusiasm and determination to do their best to support the peace process—the process of a peace that future generations can be proud of. Hence, the French president's visit provided me with a good opportunity to continue discussions with a dear and great friend, whom I respect and appreciate. He is one of the most renowned world leaders in terms of the expertise he has concerning the peace process and conflicts at this point in time. He is also well aware of the ongoing talks, not only on the bilateral level, but also on the multilateral level. The ongoing talks have various tracks, including the multilateral talks track, which tackles the humanitarian and economic dimensions of the conflict. Other dimensions being currently tackled during the talks concern weapons of mass destruction and weapons in the region in general. The French president is well aware of all these fields. Plus, France is a member of the Security Council. Hence, I believe that it has a great role to play.

[AFP] How do you view the French president's proposal regarding the pursuit of a step-by-step approach in the peace process, and his proposal to establish a European fund for developing the Middle East?

[Husayn] As regards his proposal to establish a European fund for development, I welcome it very much. I also welcome the effort exerted thus far. France took the lead by raising the idea within the EC. As regards the step-by-step approach, I have taken cognizance of some press comments regarding what I and the French president said in this regard. The pursuit of a step-by-step approach would be fine with us if it meant a search for avenues of progress and agreement on some packages in the overall topics of discussion in the direction of a comprehensive solution. I personally welcome this. However, this should not mean implementing something

that could be agreed upon. The issues over which an agreement may be reached should be put aside, pending the tackling of the difficult problems, which must be dealt with. Consequently, this progress would be an incentive to address the basic and difficult issues. However, if the step-by-step approach means that we should take the other direction, from which we suffered a great deal in the past; that is, to have an Arab party try to solve its own problems and leave the others behind, I do not believe that the French president proposed this. I have always rejected this approach. We are looking for a comprehensive and just solution, which must address, first and foremost, the Palestinian dimension of the conflict in terms of Palestinian rights on Palestinian national soil. Additionally, all other issues, which are numerous, important, and pressing, such as the water issue, must also be addressed. All issues which require speedy handling must be addressed. Consequently, the end product would be a package, including the comprehensive and just solution we are looking for.

[AFP] What changes is Jordan talking about vis-a-vis the bilateral negotiations agenda that was reached with Israel? Does it want a clearer indication regarding Jerusalem as part of the occupied territories?

[Husayn] It is premature to comment on this issue because the final status of this agenda and whether there will be an agenda have not crystallized yet. After one year of talks agreement was reached on some broad lines of the issues that will be discussed. At that point, there was some media misunderstanding of the issue as a result of disseminating points the two sides agreed to submit to their governments for approval and amendment.

There was some prejudgment on this issue as these points were not approved in order to be amended. Moreover, the issue is just one of broad lines or topics for discussion.

The other dimension on which there was some misunderstanding was that this issue, according to our own understanding, dealt with Jordanian-Israeli talks, particularly on the Jordanian-Israeli track and not on the Palestinian-Israeli track. Perhaps there were some ambiguous points and, consequently, there was an effort to clarify them so that they would not be interpreted as if we can in one way or another forget our moral responsibility in helping the Palestinian leadership regain its rights to the national Palestinian soil. Our opinion on the Jerusalem issue is clear and frank and we have declared it more than once.

[AFP] Do you expect progress on the other tracks, given that Israel rejects a full withdrawal from the Golan Heights and that there is a stalemate on the Palestinian track?

[Husayn] I cannot comment on what is happening on the other tracks. However, I recall my meeting with the foreign ministers of the concerned Arab parties when they met in Amman. During that meeting, I recall telling them that we in the Arab world should put an end to something we do not believe is acceptable and something from which we suffered in the past. I also said that the point from which we should proceed is that of mutual confidence, and each one of us should try to do his best to regain right and achieve a just and honorable peaceful solution that would be accepted and safeguarded by the future generations.

I hoped everyone will refrain from casting doubts on each other's stands and from untimely comments on these stands, especially since the objective is the same in the end. However, it seems that each one of us is trying to record a stand at the expense of the others. I hope that we will continue work, contacts, and coordination as much as possible. We in Jordan seek to do this continuously in order to carry out our duty.

[AFP] Do you intend to meet with U.S. President-elect Bill Clinton during your scheduled visit in the first part of this month?

[Husayn] No doubt if there is an opportunity, I would be very happy to conduct such a meeting. However, I was informed that Clinton is not seeking to meet with any head of state at this stage until he assumes his new position. Based on this, I do not think there will be a meeting. Naturally, I will utilize my presence in the United States to contact friends there in order to continue discussing what is good for the march of bilateral and Arab-U.S. relations.

[AFP] The Arab world has begun to talk about an Iranian ghoul and to warn against arming it. The Arab world now believes that a strong, unified Iraq can stand against the Iranian threat. Do you believe that Iraq can restore its unity under the current regime?

[Husayn] Iraq is one of the components of Arab existence. It is an effective and influential element in the Arab world and the Arab body as a whole. What I hope for Iraq is that it will emerge from its current ordeal. We support the unity of Iraq and its people and its territorial integrity, which must not be harmed in any way. We hope that Iraq will enjoy stability and will successfully effect a national reconciliation on the level of the Iraqi people, who are dear to us all and who are our back and our depth. At the same time, we hope, God willing, that Iraq will follow the path of democracy and political pluralism that unites and builds rather than demolishes so that Iraq will be able to restore its place in the sun after it has suffered a great deal. However, Iraq is cohesive, strong, and solid through the unity of its sons. Iraq is a basic component. As for Iran, I am actually not willing to join anti-Iran voices now or at any stage. We are always eager to have good relations with Iran under all circumstances. However, these relations should be based on mutual respect and noninterference in each other's affairs. We have previously proposed and continue to propose that in order to reach such a stage, there must be dialogue on the highest levels to define the

course of these relations in subsequent stages. We hope that this will take place and that there will be a response from the Iranian side.

[AFP] It is known that Jordan is the only country that enjoys credibility among the Iraqi people. From this premise, and in light of your call for the Iraqi people to adopt democracy and change, how, in your view, can the Iraqi people decide their future in light of their current circumstances?

[Husayn] It is a matter to be determined by the Iraqis themselves to find a way out of their current ordeal and to decide what to choose. I hope that this ordeal will end and that the Iraqi people will enjoy what we have done for ourselves. This is the rule and basis.

[AFP] When you speak of Iraq as a depth for Jordan, are you indicating the possibility of forging a unity between the two countries?

[Husayn] There might be many ideas that we are proposing with respect to what is taking place in the Arab world. We cannot stand still where we are. When we talk about the dangers surrounding us, we should admit that these dangers increase if matters remain the same. Therefore, we have a duty toward the Arab individual and his right to life, self-confidence, confidence about the future, and the feeling that he is taking part in making this future and that his status is preserved. This is an objective that is being constantly reinforced through the bases that we have laid with regard to democracy, the National Charter, political plurality, responsible freedom, and respect for human rights. This is what we have proposed to our brothers in the entire Arab homeland. There are ideas which we constantly raise. But is there a response? This is something that needs some time. We cannot go into detail. Currently, no discussion is taking place. It is regrettable that in many cases, others have the impression that we, thanks to our experience in our position, can in one way or another influence others through sound arguments and logic, less than that [as received]. The fact is that, regrettably, many of our attempts are not taken seriously. We have unsuccessfully tried the impossible to prevent what happened. At any rate, we look back at the past only to benefit from its lessons. We hope that this will be the position of everyone. Consequently, we would be able to consider the best method to tackle the situation in order to achieve the objectives, which are the same, not for us as persons or for a specific period of time, but for the coming generations.

[AFP] Morocco's King Hassan II is seeking an Arab summit to heal the rift caused by the Gulf war. What are the chances of holding such a summit and can it be held in the absence of the Iraqi president, with whom the Gulf rulers refuse to sit?

[Husayn] We always welcome the idea of holding an Arab summit. I believe King Hassan is working in this direction. I do not have details about the outcome of his efforts, but I think the idea received a positive response and the summit may, God willing, be held in the near future.

[AFP] What do you think of the saying that Saddam Husayn's continuation in power delays Arab detente?

[Husayn] I will answer as follows: We are against the principle of interfering in the affairs of any Arab or foreign country in this world. We believe that every people has the right to decide what it wants regarding its present and future. Based on this, I avoided and will continue to avoid the personal method of tackling issues—a method that is regrettably a new phenomenon in this world. We are with the Iraqi people and whatever they decide. We suffer from what they suffer and we are pained by what they have been through. We trust they are the only party concerned in choosing what they want for their present and future.

[AFP] There were signs of improvement in relations between Amman and Riyadh, but this improvement has so far not materialized into a summit meeting between you and the Saudi monarch. What prevents such a meeting?

[Husayn] There might be a chance in the future to remove any negative aspects in the issue of bilateral relations. Perhaps circumstances have thus far not allowed this to happen. I hope there will be meetings between brothers. I greatly appreciate the Saudi brothers' initiative in contacting me to inquire about my health and to wish me recovery during my presence in the United States. Opportunities may come to renew meetings because openness, frankness, and clarity can resolve many of the issues from which we all have suffered.

[AFP] What is the current status of your country's relations with Egypt?

[Husayn] Our relations are brotherly, normal, and good. We hope to continue developing relations as they should be between us and Egypt and with all Arab brothers, or those who desire such good relations.

[AFP] Do you think that Iran supports, directly or indirectly, organizations in the Jordanian arena, especially since you noted in your speech on 22 November that local elements are linked to foreign parties?

[Husayn] My speech on that day was confined to cautioning and warning of the dangers that could face democracy and liberty in the name of democracy and in the name of liberty. I did not mention names then, and I will not mention names now.

[AFP] How is your health?

[Husayn] Thank God, my health is good. I found out that there was a problem, and I was very frank. We did not want to hide the truth from our kinfolk in Jordan and everywhere. I think this is the best way. I traveled for treatment at a specialized and advanced center with

regard to my health problem. I underwent major surgery and got the impression that the cause of ailment was very satisfactorily treated and that we got rid of the problem from which I suffered. Now, I will make a new visit to the United States, as recommended by physicians, to follow up on the case. We hope the results will confirm the initial expectations. Physicians told me that at this age, and after the problem I suffered, there should be some monitoring and observation of my health condition to make sure that everything is proceeding normally. Personally, I think that I am in a condition which was not imagined by me or by physicians, in terms of my speedy recovery and return to my duties and responsibilities. I am optimistic and reassured.

[AFP] You have repeatedly noted the importance of bolstering the concept of state institutions and that the state should not be linked to the person of the leader alone. What are the arrangements that you have made on the ground to bolster this concept?

[Husayn] We have made the arrangements right from the very beginning. We will continue to lay the foundation so that the march will always move forward and so that Jordan will remain an example for its brothers and others in this world regarding the democratic approach and sharing responsibilities within the context of the one family to which we belong and in which we take pride.

King Husayn Visits Army Headquarters

JN2611193992 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 26 Nov 92

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn, supreme commander of the Armed Forces, visited Army Headquarters today.

He was received by Staff Field Marshal Fathi Abu-Talib, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff; the chief of staff of the Royal Land Forces, aides to the chief of staff, and the inspector general.

His majesty the supreme commander met with the chairman of the joint chiefs of staff for some time, during which they discussed issues of interest to the Armed Forces.

Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir attended the meeting.

Current Status of Muslim Brotherhood Viewed

JN0312083392 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 3-4 Dec 92 p 4

[By Nermin Mursafi]

[Text] No political force in the country has received as much criticism or has been under as close a scrutiny as the Muslim Brotherhood Movement. From the day in 1989 when 23 of its representatives swept parliamentary elections, many Jordanians have watched warily as the movement participated in one government, actively worked for the downfall of another and secretly courted the third. Predictable or unpredictable, the Movement's position and action on any issue of concern to Jordan and the region have always been a factor in the formulation of the Kingdom's politics.

Now, say the leaders of the Movement, they are going to bring about a fundamental change to their policies, at least in the short-term. Priorities are being shifted, new faces are going to emerge and a totally new strategy is being formulated for the Movement to ensure that it remains in harmony with the regime rather than posing a challenge that could seriously undermine its own political future.

The first step the Brotherhood says it will take in this direction is an open commitment to the regime's stability, the country's security and respect for the Jordanian society "even though it appears corrupt on the surface."

The Movement's leaders say they are aware of the state of distrust that surrounds them and the need to dissipate it. A year away from the next round of general elections, the Movement's leaders are saying they have "grown up" since they first entered the 80-seat Lower House of Parliament; for this they credit His Majesty King Husayn's "flexibility and unequalled (among Arab leaders) understanding of Islam." One of them described the King's role over the past three years as "a balancing factor when most forces in the country were sceptical," of the Movement's intentions.

They also say that their day-to-day hands-on knowledge of the reality of Jordan's affairs, whether national or international, contributed to their "maturity." This experience alongside the system, they say, has chiseled away at their own fear of the other political and social forces in the country and minimised their sensitivity to "all that is not Islamist on the surface."

"There is a marked change in our attitude towards what appears not to be Islamist," one of their leaders told the Jordan Times. "We now believe that we cannot judge by appearances and that the Jordanian society is basically Muslim at heart if not in appearance."

Throughout several interviews conducted with members of the Movement or those who are close to them, a new theme appeared to be pointing towards a shift in their short-term tactics, if not their long-term strategy.

For the time being the Movement appears to be ready to tune in with the society at large and avoid confrontation over issues which touch on the personal freedoms of the more liberal Jordanians.

The Brothers concede that their initial participation in the government of Prime Minister Mudar Badran may have caused Jordanians to fear their strength and to be sceptical of their priorities.

"We were in a hurry," said a Muslim Brotherhood deputy, who asked not to be named. "Now our vision of our immediate role has changed."

The Movement's prominent members shy away from being specific about their past "mistakes" but they do say that their priorities have changed and that this change will become evident in the kind of representatives they will nominate for Parliament in 1993.

"We used choose representatives according to their commitment to Islam and Muslim doctrine. Now we will choose the representative most able to deliver Islam to the people at this time," a prominent personality of the Movement said.

"You will see at least a 50 per cent change," one of their respected leaders told the Jordan Times recently. "Experience has brought change among the Brothers."

A senior official agrees with the Movement's own interpretation of the development of its experience and relationship with the regime and with society at large. "They are much more pragmatic," he observes.

Other analysts, who have kept close tabs on the Movement and its relationship with the government attribute this pragmatism to the unique opportunity the Movement received in Jordan compared to other Arab countries where the Ikhwan were either militarily or politically suppressed.

"They are aware of the turbulent sea around them and they have become cautious because they know that Jordan is the only place that has allowed for co-existence," a seasoned analyst told the Jordan Times, adding that Jordan had provided the Movement with the only tranquil spot in the region where they can operate in the open.

The Movement is not unaware of this element and admits that the leadership of Islamist movements in 60 different countries around the world had told them that the Jordanian "regime is unequalled anywhere else in the world," and that it should not be undermined.

The analyst, who insisted on anonymity, points out that the comfortable relationship between the regime and the Movement has manifested itself in the Movement's relationship with other political blocs in Parliament which identify with the state's centrist path.

He sees what he described as apprehension, that so far characterised the Movement's relationship with other political forces in country receding and cites the decision of the two traditionalist Parliament blocs—the constitutional and national blocs—to vote for the Movement's candidate for the speakership of the Lower House of Parliamment Tuesday as an example.

However, tension between the Movement and the state is not completely absent Behind the seeming state of co-existence, a silent tug of war still exists if only between some members of the Movement and some in the government and the state security agencies.

That is why the Movement is quick to point out that its intended "openness" is not unconditional for without purpose.

"Think of us like you do of a frog," a Muslim Brotherhood deputy said with a smile. "If you watch the frog from afar it will move towards you, but if you scare it, it will run away."

The Movement's leaders say they fear a "shock" from "the security institutions" which, they say, may provide the hardliners among them with an excuse to renege on the unwritten agreement of co-existence with the regime. "What I fear most is that the Brothers would feel trapped."

Although speaking in soft terms and taking pains not to appear confrontational, a prominent member of the Movement said that the "state's official institutions should recognise that after a balloon gets inflated it cannot be compressed again. It will only burst."

"The Brothers have to be understood and allowed to go out into open," he continued, conceding that some "brothers" may at one time or another overstep the lines drawn out for them, urging that if their action did not threaten security they should be contained peacefully.

The Movement has so far placed all its hopes on the King's ability to forgive and forget and express their hope that his "understanding" will spread to the "lower ranks." They use the terminology often employed by the King to drive their point home. "We are a family. The father often finds that he has to endure the minor tantrums of his sons," one Muslim Brotherhood personality said.

The Movement's leaders say that it has become a political body that "accepts and is convinced" that the Jordanian regime is better than other Arab regimes.

As for their declared goal of creating an Islamic state, one of their prominent figures sees this question as redundant at this stage in Jordan's history.

They say that a lot of ground work has to be done before that notion should be entertained. "Can any Arab or Muslim leader declare an Islamic state considering all the elements at play in the region and the world?" one of them asked.

'Arabiyat Reelection Strong Boost for Islamists

JN0212081192 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 2 Dec 92 pp 1,3

[By JORDAN TIMES staff reporter Maryam M. Shahin]

[Text] Amman—In what was widely perceived as a reaffirmation of the Islamist strength in Jordan's Lower House of Parliament, Muslim Brotherhood Deputy 'Abd-al-Latif 'Arabiyat was reelected speaker of the

House for a third term with an overwhelming majority of votes from his colleagues during Tuesday's opening session of Parliament.

Dr. 'Arabiyat's reelection for the last ordinary session of the present Parliament was predicted by analysts throughout last week. But when 58 of the 79 of his fellow deputies present cast their ballots in his favour Tuesday, many said the 73 per cent vote to elect him was "stunning."

A last minute withdrawal of Dr. 'Arabiyat's sole opponent in the race," independent al-Zarqa' Deputy 'Abd-al-Baqi Jamous, and the last-minute nomination of Amman Deputy Shaykh 'Ali al-Faqir momentarily scrambled voting calculations and predictions made prior to the opening of Parliament.

Mr. al-Faqir, who served as minister of Islamic Affairs in 1990, received 18 votes. Three ballots were either blank or had "no-one" written on them.

The only deputy who did not attend the speakership election was Amman Deputy Layth Shubaylat.

Mr. 'Arabiyat's election was in many ways a foregone conclusion. Backed by his own 22-member bloc—the largest in the House—the former academician-turned-politician and senior Brotherhood leader also managed to obtain support from many non-Islamists.

Other than the Brotherhood bloc 'Arabiyat received the support of almost all the 10 deputies who serve in the cabinet of Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir.

Dr. 'Arabiyat also received votes from members in the four other political groupings in the House. In addition, a al-Balqa' deputy, Dr. 'Arabiyat, is known to be supported by other parliamentarians. All eight al-Balqa district deputies were believed to have cast their votes in his favour in line with the political tradition that forbids voting against someone from your own district in such an election.

It was apparently that Dr. 'Arabiyat had no "real" opposition.

After attempts to form a non-Islamist coalition to field one candidate failed to materialize last week, two of four deputies seeking speakership withdrew from the race.

Parliamentary insiders believe that at least one of the two, al-Karak Deputy Muhammad Faris al-Tarawinah, could have had a sporting chance if all non-Islamists rallied behind him.

"The political will to change 'Arabiyat was not there," said Muhammad Abu-'Alim, a member of the 15-member Constitutional Bloc, which cast its votes, almost entirely, in favour of the incumbent.

While Dr. 'Arabiyat is popular with the government because of his perceived pro-establishment and anti-revolutionary approach in both action and speech, the consequences of his reelection could be more indicative than many in the government perceive, political analysts say.

"In the last two weeks we had a few 'small-time' elections," said one leading analyst. "Student elections were held in Irbid and municipal elections took place in al-Karak, which is traditionally secular in its voting patterns. Islamists and Islamist-backed candidates won the vast majority of the votes in both elections, noted the analyst, who preferred anonymity.

"Now this is the third victory of the Islamists in two weeks," he said.

The boost to the confidence of the Islamic movement or movements in the Kingdom is tremendous, some observers believe.

Despite warnings by His Majesty King Husayn to political groups advocating a non-pluralistic society, the pro-establishment political groupings appear to be crumbling or ceding influence to the Islamists, secular thinkers say.

"Many people believe that the only way to be elected or reelected in next summer's legislative elections will be to get the support of the Islamists because they are motivated and have loyal voters," said a member of the House who predicts half of the next parliament will consist of Brotherhood members and Islamists.

"We are still haunted by years of absence of political freedoms," said Deputy al-Tarawinah. "The Brotherhood was organizing while many of us were in prison and this society will pay the price of that for a long time to come."

While officially in favour of an Islamic state, Brotherhood in Jordan has diluted reference to such plans and has concentrated on changing and formulating social, eduction and economic laws which govern Jordanian society.

Speaker Receives Iraqi Note on Ending 'Siege'

JN2911161492 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 29 Nov 92 p 8

[Text] House of Representatives Speaker Dr. 'Abd-al-Latif 'Arabiyat has received a message from Iraqi National Assembly Speaker Sa'di Mahdi Salih dealing with the siege imposed on Iraq.

The message says that Iraq has implemented all Security Council resolutions and has cooperated with the United Nations and its inspection teams on the banned weapons, but the economic and political siege continues even though the reasons for its imposition are gone.

The Iraqi official's letter said that we do not have any spark of hope that the United Nations and the allied countries will consider resolutions that are beneficial to Iraq. Therefore, the Iraqi people's suffering will increase and this, in turn, has greatly affected the economic situation, development, and future of Iraq. In addition

to this, Iraq's territorial integrity is being endangered as a result of the presence of foreign forces in the north, and the restriction imposed on Iraqi flights in the north and south.

The message added that this situation will have a permanent effect on stability and security in the region and the neighboring countries because it will lead to unpredictable transformations.

The Iraqi speaker's letter also said that Iraq is aware that U.S. policy in the region has constants that do not change with succeeding administrations, but that he believes the disappearance of George Bush may introduce a change, at least at the psychological level. Therefore, Iraq hopes that we [in Jordan] would take the opportunity of the election of a new U.S. president to send a message to him explaining Iraq's sufferings, hoping that this may bring about a change to alleviate the siege imposed on Iraq.

Communist, Ba'th Parties Denied Recognition

JN0412143192 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 4 Dec 92 pp 1, 15

[By Nayif al-Ma'ani]

[Text] The Interior Ministry issued a decision yesterday, turning down a request to license the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party [ASBP]. The request was submitted by the official party spokesman Ahmad al-Najdawi. The ministry also turned down a request to license the Jordanian Communist Party [JCP] submitted by the party Secretary General Ya'qub Zayadin. The Interior Ministry handed both decisions to al-Najdawi and Zayadin.

On Wednesday, the Interior Ministry handed its approval on licensing the Jordanian National Alliance Party [hizb al-tajamu' al-watani al-urduni] to its Secretary General Mijhim al-Khuraysha.

JCP Secretary General Ya'qub Zayadin said in a statement: The interior minister informed us of his refusal to license the JCP in a message dated 2 December 1992. The message lists the reasons for this refusal.

Zayadin added: We believe that these reasons are not in harmony with the spirit of the Constitution or the Political Parties Law. He said that this is a form of restricting pluralism and freedom of expression, adding that this is not at all in harmony with the law or with the talk about turning Jordan into an example of democracy.

Commenting on the Interior Ministry's decision, ASBP official spokesman lawyer Ahmad al-Najdawi said: We regret the negative response we received from the interior minister on the recognition of the party. We will file a suit with the Court of Justice to challenge this decision. We have confidence in the fairness of the Jordanian judiciary, particularly since the Higher Court of Justice issued a decision in 1954 noting that the regulations of our party do not contradict the Jordanian Constitution, contrary to what came in the interior minister's decision.

The ASBP official spokesman added: We believe that refraining from recognizing parties that have deep-rooted ideologies and ideas does not serve the principle of political pluralism, democracy, and the presence of a real and constructive opposition that plays its role in serving the society.

Leaders Arrive for Meeting; Buwayz Comments

NC0312152092 Shamayh Voice of the Mountain in Arabic 1230 GMT 3 Dec 92

[Text] Preparations are underway to hold a meeting of the foreign ministers of countries involved in the Washington talks in Beirut tomorrow, to discuss participation in the eighth round, due to begin in the U.S. capital on 7 December, and to coordinate Arab stands ahead of it.

Arab delegations participating in the meeting have begun to arrive in Beirut. Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, member of the PLO Executive Committee, and Faysal al-Husayni, head of the Palestinian delegation's steering committee, arrived in Beirut at noon today aboard the same plane that flew Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz back from the Islamic conference in Jeddah on the situation of Muslims in Bosnia-Hercegovina.

Sa'ib 'Urayqat, member of the Palestinian delegation to the bilateral talks, arrived in Beirut from Amman earlier today.

Minister Buwayz said upon arrival at Beirut Airport that the Jeddah conference provided an opportunity for several bilateral and sideline meetings on the Arab-Israeli conflict. He said agreement was reached to hold a coordination meeting in Beirut of the delegations participating in the peace talks. God willing, he noted, this meeting will draw up a plan of action for the delegations taking part in this round of talks.

Immediately following his return to Beirut, Buwayz headed for the Presidential Office and met President Ilyas al-Hirawi.

PLO Executive Committee member Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh said participation in the eighth round will be discussed at tomorrow's meeting. He added: We are in agreement and seek to work on one line. All ideas and proposals will be put to the meeting and we will try to reach a unified position.

'Abd-Rabbuh Arrives, Comments

NC0312183692 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 3 Dec 92

[Text] The Palestinian leadership has not announced whether it will travel to Washington, having expressed the belief that no progress will be made before U.S. President-elect Bill Clinton assumes his duties as President on 20 January.

In an interview published by AL-HAYAH today, Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, head of the PLO's information department, said the Palestinians prefer to suspend the talks until the new U.S. Administration takes over or a clear U.S. stand is announced, rectifying the peace march that Israel tried to divert.

But 'Abd-Rabbuh, heading the Palestinian delegation to the Beirut meetings tomorrow, made a statement today on his arrival at the airport that the Palestinians will democratically discuss their participation with the rest of the Arab sides and will reach a unified position.

A member of the Lebanese delegation participating in the negotiations told AFP today that Lebanon and Syria, which announced their determination to go to Washington, will try to convince the Palestinians to participate, because it is important that the march does not stop even if no progress is made. The Palestinian delegation will comprise 'Abd-Rabbuh, Faysal al-Husayni, Sa'ib 'Urayqat, and Shafiq al-Hut, the PLO's representative in Lebanon.

Chief Negotiator Views Latest Round of Talks

NC0312151292 Shamayh Voice of the Mountain in Arabic 1000 GMT 3 Dec 92

[Text] Ambassador Suhayl Shammas, head of the Lebanese delegation to the bilateral peace negotiations, has said that the Israeli delegation wants very much to reach a treaty with Lebanon. In an interview with AL-DIYAR, Shammas said that the Lebanese delegation explained to the Israelis that the 17 May 1983 agreement will not be repeated in part and parcel, adding: Our central and indispensable objective is to liberate the Lebanese territory from Israeli occupation. Therefore, we are using the method of persuasion with the Israelis and are trying to find the best way in the hope that we will succeed soon. This is not impossible.

Shammas explained that what has happened so far has been an attempt to identify, explain, and develop basic positions, as the nature of the negotiations is not to be a dialogue of the deaf. He said that he does not think that what is taking place with the Israelis is a dialogue of the deaf. We may reach that point some time in the future if the peace process does not make progress.

Shammas said that positions taken by the Lebanese delegation were based on the national principles with which it was supplied. We adopt positions and define tactics we pursue according to these principles. As a negotiating delegation, we are very much aware of our interests and policy. We must prove that we can fulfill the trust placed in us. We have negotiating ambassadors and officers qualified and faithful in defending the Lebanese cause.

Buwayz on 'Positive' Signs in Peace Process

PM0312154892 London AL-HAWADITH in Arabic 4 Dec 92 pp21, 23

[Interview with Lebanese Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz by William Dahir in Beirut; date not given]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [Dahir] You recently said that, in principle, Lebanon would participate in the eighth round of Arab-Israeli negotiations scheduled for 7 December. You also spoke of positive achievements in the previous bilateral rounds. On what do you base that conclusion about positive achievements?

[Buwayz] There can be no doubt that peace, which is now trying to impose itself on the region after hundreds of years of philosophical, ideological, sectarian, and ethnic conflicts and disputes, requires much time. It would be wrong to expect peace to be established after one round or within a matter of one week or one month. Still, what has happened in more than a year of talks and exchange of views, along with the postive and negative aspects which have surfaced, leads us to believe that the positive aspects, although modest, outweighed the negative aspects in most cases. If we examine the general results pertaining to all the delegations, we would find that there were some positive ideas which, I can say, moved the conference from the stage of discussing the legitimate UN resolutions to what I call advanced principles which, of course, need to be programmed and which require more negotiations, clarification, and scrutiny. When we hear statements indicating that Israel has no territorial ambitions in Lebanon and that it might discuss with Lebanon the method of withdrawal, in the negotiations and on certain terms, that undoubtedly is progress, albeit very modest and incomplete without a program and mechanism for its accurate and early implementation. When we hear that Israel is talking and negotiating about ways and a framework for its withdrawal from the occupied Golan Heights, we cannot but recognize that as progress, albeit modest, even though Israeli has not yet said when and how it would withdraw. When we hear acknowledgement of Palestinian rights and of discussions and deliberations about a certain Palestinian status which might result in some kind of transitional self-government and, later, a certain entity, then we must say that, yes, there has been some progress even though, after a year and a half of talks, it does not fulfill our aspirations. We had hoped for tangible, essential, and fundamental progress, and we had hope to regain the occupied Arab territories more quickly in the interest of establishing peace, but we cannot say that there is absolute refusal to implement UN resolutions or absolute disregard for these resolutions. This modest progress is what justifies continuation of the negotiations.

[Dahir] We have frequently heard you speak optimistically about the promised peace and about permanent stability in Lebanon and the region. Are you still optimistic after the change of administration in the United States?

[Buwayz] When I express optimism about the establishment of peace in the region, I base that on my assessment and analysis of the positions taken at the peace conference and the background. I am convinced that there is a desire for peace, but it is still modest and unprogrammed. As regards the election of a new president in the United States, I do not at all believe that the U.S. policy is a one-man policy. It is the product of a mixture of several factors. It is a mixture of the policies and views of the White House, the State Department, the Senate, the House of Representatives, some universities and cultural circles, and some clubs and ideological foundations. That is why I believe that when a state like the United States draws up its policy, the outcome is the sum total of the views and concepts of all these institutions, and it would be almost impossible for one man to change it. Furthermore, the U.S. policy in the context of the peace conference was defined in the written letters of assurance confirming its commitments and concepts as far as that conference is concerned. Anyone who went to that conference did so on the basis of that policy. Therefore, a change of U.S. policy would, in the final analysis, mean changing the nature and aim of the peace conference, and I do not believe that anyone has any intention of doing that.

[Dahir] Is it right for the Arabs to be divided and in disagreement as they face the proposed peace plans?

[Buwayz] The Arabs should, of course, realize that they are at a most crucial stage that will determine the future of the Arab world and the Middle East. Naturally, they should realize that they are faced with a sharp and skillful adversary in the negotiations, and they should realize that no mistakes are permitted at this stage. Arab solidarity is the best weapon. [passage omitted]

[Dahir] The cabinet has recently formed a Citizenship Committee. Is there any inclination to naturalize the Palestinians living in Lebanon? Would the danger of resettlement [of the Palestinians in Lebanon] still loom in the next round of peace negotiations? Also, what happened to Minister Buwayz' plan to grant citizenship to expatriates of Lebanese origin?

[Buwayz] As far as the Citizenship Committee is concerned, I hasten to say that it has nothing to do with the question of resettlement. That is a matter which comes under the al-Ta'if agreement. What is taking place now is completion of the implementation of that agreement. If that has coincided with some talk about resettlement intentions or plans, that is just a coincidence. What the plan addresses is the status of some originally Lebanese individuals who have been living in Lebanon for a long time but who, because of some mistakes and legal circumstances since the Ottoman Empire, do not have Lebanese identification cards. The plan also addresses a number of anomalies open to discussion. It will never address the question of resettling the Palestinian people who have their own identity and homeland and who are the guests of Lebanon until they regain their occupied territory. [passage omitted]

Family Says Imprisoned Hammadi Brother Attacked

NC0312154992 Beirut AL-ANWAR in Arabic 1 Dec 92 p 5

[Text] The family of 'Abbas and Muhammad 'Ali Hammadi, who are in prison in Germany, held a news conference in Burj al-Barajinah yesterday.

Their brother 'Abd-al-Rahman read a statement in which he revealed that Muhammad Hammadi was subjected to a serious attack in which he received a knife

vented in the stomach. German media described the incident as a suicide attempt by Mohammad, but we deny this based on confirmed information we have received.

He called on the Lebanese Government to act. We have not heard anyone in the government asking the German ambassador about our detainees. And we have not heard our state's ambassador asking the German Government about the health of our detainees.

He added: We call on the state to play a role in the issue. We also ask: Mohammad is charged in a political case, the events of which occurred on Lebanese territory, so what right did the German authorities have to detain him? Because the events occurred on Lebanese territory, we call on the Lebanese authorities to demand that Mohammad Hammami be brought to trial in Lebanon and that a medical team be sent to check out Mohammad's health.

Bomb Explosion Near Israeli Post Reported

NC0312151093 Paris AFP in English 1445 GMT 3 Dec 93

[Text] Marj 'Uyun, Dec 3 (AFP)—A bomb exploded Thursday near a position of the Israeli army and its proxy militia in south Lebanon, a spokesman for the South Lebanon Army (SLA) said.

He reported no casualties in the attack, which took place in al- Dahdah on the outskirts of the central sector of the "security zone" that Israel and the SLA jointly controls. Israeli troops retaliated with an artillery barrage against the nearby hills of al-Habariyah and Kafr Rummun, strongholds of the Iranian-backed Hizbullah movement, police said.

The attack came four days before the resumption of Arab-Israeli peace talks in Washington. Hizbullah opposes the negotiations and has stepped up military action in southern Lebanon before the start of each round of bilateral talks.

Shiite Elders Meet Sibyr, Stress Coexistence

NC0312204593 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 3 Dec 93

[Text] Ekrikt was the focus of attention this evening when Patriarch Sibyr met with a delegation of Shiite scholars in Lebanon, including elders Zaheyr Kanj, Muhammad Shakar, Mahmud Jabaq, and Sayyid Hassan Yasin.

After the meeting, Shaykh Kanj said Patriarch Sibyr is a pillar of coexistence among the sects. He affirmed the need to support the resistance against Israel, saying: Patriarch Sibyr supports this policy because the gate to a solution in Lebanon will open when the south is liberated. We also discussed with his beatitude the need to stop violence and massacres against Muslims in Bosnia-Herzegovina; Christianity and Islam are innocent of all that is happening there. Shaykh Kanj affirmed the need to repeat such meetings periodically to strengthen coexistence in Lebanon.

Al-Shar' Returns From Jeddah Islamic Conference

JN0312072092 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0515 GMT 3 Dec 92

[Text] Damascus—Foreign Minister Farouq al-Shar' returned to Damascus from Jeddah last night after participating in the sixth extraordinary session of the Islamic foreign ministers conference which was held in Jeddah on 1-2 December to discuss the tragic situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Al-'Allaf Fears Failure of Talks With Israel

AU0312141292 Vienna DIE PRESSE in German 3 Dec 92 p 14

[Interview with Mawaffaq al-'Allaf, head of the Syrian delegation to the Middle East talks in Washington, by Andreas Schwarz in Vienna; date not given: "Israel Is Wasting an Historic Opportunity"]

[Text] [Schwarz] Mr. Ambassador, did you secretly expect such meager results after one year of Middle East talks?

[Al-'Allaf] It is the first time that all the Arab parties are sitting at one table to discuss peace with Israel, and it is very disappointing that Israel is not seizing this historic opportunity.

For years Israel stressed that the only way to a solution of the Israeli-Arab conflict were direct negotiations (against the background that Israel would thus be indirectly recognized). It was not easy for the Arab states to agree to that but they did it—and after one year we are still at square one. Israel is still trying to divide the Arabs, to achieve individual agreements, and to enforce partial and interim solutions.

[Schwarz] Since the change in government in Jerusalem, there have at least been confidence-building measures by Israel (the halting of the settlements) and some proposals (the partial withdrawal from the Golan Heights). Now the world is waiting for steps by the Arab side.

[Al-'Allaf] It is true that Rabin started out with the promise of being different from Shamir, for instance as regards the construction of settlements. But these were only promises, which were not fulfilled. We do not see any great difference from Shamir—apart from the fact that Shamir was frank in his statements that there would be no withdrawal and no rights for the Palestinians.

It is true, Rabin does not say that. But he does not work for peace, either, as his people want. Rabin, whose coalition is so fragile, tries to do things right for everyone and, in reality, does not do things right for anyone. At one time he speaks of withdrawal from Golan, then of withdrawal within Golan, then of rights for the Palestinians, then he tries to pit Arab states against one another.

But the only basis for a real peace would be Israeli withdrawal from the territories occupied in 1967. The formula "land for peace" does not mean that Israel has to give up part of its land: It is Arab land, as UN Resolution 242 states.

[Schwarz] In September, one got the impression of a rapprochement: Jerusalem suggested partial withdrawal from Golan, Damascus allegedly suggested "resting" some parts of the Golan for a time. Then a new ice age followed. What went wrong?

[Al-'Allaf] There was no rapprochement. First of all; for Syria another partial solution is unacceptable—such a partial solution already exists with the disengagement on the Golan Heights since 1974. Syria is not willing to leave even one centimeter of the Golan under occupation if there is to be peace. It certainly cannot take 18 years to withdraw from an occupied territory if one really wants peace!

This is precisely the problem: Israel still acts as if there were no peace on the horizon, as if two states were fighting each other and each side were trying to gain the advantage. The Arabs, on the other hand, come with the desire to make peace.

[Schwarz] In view of some Arab groups, Israel must doubt that.

[Al-'Allaf] There are also Arabs who do not think anything of peace with Israel because they do not believe that Israel wants peace. Israel gives them just the ammunition to say: Look, we told you so.

Or take the Palestinian problem: Israel suggests an interim solution; the UN Resolution, on the other hand, does not recognize any interim solution. Israel wants to put the Palestinians off with so-called self-administration in fringe areas. What Israel is doing with the Palestinians, the allegedly "new proposals," is a mockery, an attempt to legitimize the occupation. Therefore, Syria is not willing to conclude a separate peace with Israel at the expense of the Palestinians.

[Schwarz] Can Israel's restraint not be explained by the fact that it feels threatened by parts of the Arab world?

[Al-'Allaf] It is a difficult conflict if one thinks in terms of hostility; and it is a very simple conflict if one thinks in terms of peace. Israel must choose between two things: Either remaining a fortress armed to its teeth, dependent on foreign aid, and trying to control a population 30 times larger with deterrence; or becoming part of the region with friendly and economic relations. But Israel cannot choose the latter if it keeps land occupied and violates the rights of its neighbors.

[Schwarz] Israel's position in the dialogue with Syria is the following: Let us see your ideas of a peace plan, then we can also discuss the withdrawal from the Golan. Syria's position is: First withdraw from the Golan, then we will talk about a peace treaty. Is it not understandable that Israel wants to know what is in it for her? Is there no middle way?

[Al-'Allaf] Israel poses conditions even though there are the UN resolutions, international law, etc. One cannot

come along and say I will withdraw from your territory only if you are nice to me, establish economic relations, recognize me, and start airline traffic. Such things cannot be ordered by decree, they can develop only on the basis of trust. And the best way to win trust is to return occupied land.

Take the Arab economic boycott against Israel: This is a self-defense measure against the occupation. Now some say that, as a confidence-building measure, the Arabs should end this boycott; the same people do not call on Israel to end the occupation, which is the reason for the boycott.

[Schwarz] If Israel said tomorrow: We are willing to withdraw from the Golan, and would you be willing to say: We recognize Israel and want to make peace?

[Al-'Allaf] If Israel withdraws from the territories, which it occupied in 1967....

[Schwarz] From all the territories?

[Al-'Allaf] ...from all the territories, because we will not conclude a separate peace.

[Schwarz] The Bush Administration has exerted pressure on Israel over the past year; the new U.S. President seems to be friendlier toward Israel. What kind of effect will this have on the talks?

[Al-'Allaf] The interests of the United States in the Middle East are those which President Bush and Secretary of State Baker mainly pursued. If Clinton wants to be a good president, he will continue this fair and balanced Middle East policy.

[Schwarz] Have any changes concerning Israel been noticed in the negotiations since Clinton's victory?

[Al-'Allaf] Yes, Israel is now taking its time, as if they were waiting to see whether the new president will be friendlier.

We are disappointed about that. Because each round that ends without a result shortens the life of the peace process. It is becoming increasingly difficult to explain to our population why we are still actually holding the negotiations.

Most recently Syria presented a fundamental declaration of principles and obligations, which has been welcomed by the Americans; only Israel has not reacted at all. There is a limit to Arab patience.

[Schwarz] This does not mean anything good for the next round in December?

[Al-'Allaf] I am not very optimistic on the whole. Now we will have to wait a while to see the effect of the changes in the United States, to see whether Clinton will build on the work of Bush and Baker, and then progress must finally be made. If the Clinton Administration does not show any enthusiasm, the United States will no longer be able to be the locomotive and support in the Middle East process. And if there are no results within the next few months, the conference will soon peter out and other steps will be taken.

[Schwarz] What kind of steps?

[Al-'Allaf] Then the matter will, for instance, be sent back to the UN Security Council. Then the tensions in the region will probably rise again, the intifadah will perhaps escalate, and this is in nobody's interest.

Al-Asad Issues Amnesty for Political Prisoners

PM0312143692 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 2 Dec 92 pp 1, 4

[Salwa Uzaywani report: "Syrian Presidential Amnesty for 554 Political Prisoners"]

[Text] Damascus—Syria yesterday issued a presidential decree granting amnesty to 554 political prisoners and detainees in Syria on the occasion of the 22d anniversary of the corrective movement led by President Hafiz al-Asad.

Syrian Interior Minister Dr. Muhammad Harbu said that those covered by the presidential amnesty "carried out—in the past—actions and activities against the state's security."

It is worth noting that this is the second decree of its kind this year, as President al-Asad issued an amnesty for 1,682 political prisoners following his reelection for a fourth constitutional term early in the year.

Well-informed sources have pointed out to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that most of those covered by the amnesty were former party leaders, members of the Muslim Brotherhood organization in Syria, members of the Communist Action Organization [munazzamat al-'amal al-shuyu'i] led by Riyad al-Turk and whose activities were banned in Syria after it broke away from the Syrian Communist Party, and members of the Communist Action Party.

The sources said that some of these prisoners carried out activities loyal to Iraq during the Gulf war, and that new decrees are expected to be issued granting amnesty to other political prisoners. Another decree is expected to cover certain economic misdemeanors, since possessing, exchanging, or dealing in foreign currencies were regarded as economic crimes punishable by law. The perpetrators are referred to special courts in implementation of the economic penal law, which is still in force in Syria despite the issuance of investment decree No. 10 in 1990.

Economic observers believe that issuing the economic amnesty decree will be in line with the spirit of openness and the policy of attracting Arab and foreign investment, which the Syrian Government has pursued over the past two years to reactivate the economic development process.

India

Parties Attack BJP; Parliament Debates Ayodhya

BK0312163092 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 3 Dec 92

[Text] The home minister, Mr. S.B. Chavan, today categorically assured the Lok Sabha [lower house] that the government is fully seized of the Ayodhya issue and nothing will be allowed to happen that may create problems for the minorities. Replying to a marathon debate on the Ayodhya issue, he also asserted that the Center has the power to send the paramilitary forces to any part of the country and there is no bar under the Constitution. Denying the allegations of inaction by the Center, Mr. Chavan said every effort is [being] made to defuse the situation. Mr. Chavan said that the state chief minister cannot escape his responsibility and has to fulfill the assurances given to the Supreme Court.

Earlier, the Congress-I, National Front, and left parties made a frontal attack on the BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] for exploiting religious sentiments for political gains, while the BJP charged the government with not being sincere in resolving the Ayodhya dispute.

Both houses of parliament discussed threadbare the developments in Ayodhya, with the government declaring its intentions to deal with the situation firmly. The Lok Sabha took up a discussion after the home minister made a statement. A similar statement was made in the Rajya Sabha [upper house] by the minister of state for home, Mr. M.M. Jacob. In the Lok Sabha, Janata Dal members said kar seva [voluntary community service for temple construction] is unconstitutional and charged the BJP leader, Mr. L.K. Advani, with making threatening statements about construction of the temple. A senior BJP leader, however, refuted the charge. He denied the reports attributed to Mr. Advani that he will carry shovels and bricks for kar seva. He claimed that the union minister, Mr. Kamal Nath, had proposed to Mr. Advani that the Center will acquire the 2.77 acres of disputed land and hand it over for construction of the temple and that the issue of the disputed structure is to be settled through negotiations or court verdict. Mr. Kamal Nath clarified that he never made any proposal to Mr. Advani from the government side.

Calling the proposed kar seva bluff, a CPI [Communist Party of India] leader said the BJP game plan will fizzle out if the Center acts firmly. A CPI-M [Communist Party of India-Marxist] member charged the BJP with making deliberate attempts to gather people at Ayodhya despite the Supreme Court orders that the kar seva should only be symbolic. While the Muslim League member demanded that the case be referred to the judiciary for final adjudication, a member belonging to the All India Majlis-i-Ittehadul Muslimeen [Organization for Unity Among Muslims] said the minority community will not have any claim if it is proved by a court of law that a temple existed at the disputed structure. Intervening briefly, the human resource development minister, Mr. Arjun Singh, charged the BJP with letting down the prime minister in his efforts to reach a negotiated settlement. He warned that what (?that) party has set upon will have dangerous consequences.

In the Rajya Sabha, a senior BJP member and leader of the opposition took strong exception to the dispatch of central forces to Ayodhya, describing the step as unconstitutional. While Congress-I members urged the government to take all necessary steps to maintain peace in Ayodhya, a CPI member said the entire case relating to the dispute be referred to the Supreme Court. Criticizing the government for not taking firm action, Janata Dal members demanded a categorical assurance that the Uttar Pradesh government will be dismissed if it violates court orders.

State Chiefs Urged To Oppose Force Deployment

BK0312101092 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 3 Dec 92

[Text] The Uttar Pradesh chief minister, Mr. Kalyan Singh, has appealed to his counterparts in different states to oppose the Center's decision of sending paramilitary forces to Ayodhya without the concurrence of his government. In a letter written to them, he said the Center's decision is not in accordance with the Constitution of the federal system of the country. Mr. Singh reiterated that his government is committed to provide full protection to the disputed shrine during the proposed kar seva [community service for temple construction].

BJP, Allies Criticized on Ayodhya Stand

BK0412093592 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 4 Dec 92

[Commentary by Subhash Kirpekar of THE TIMES OF INDIA]

[Text] Patience and hope. These have been the watchwords of the prime minister on the Ayodhya issue just as brinkmanship and vaulting ambition to somehow get into the seat of power are the guiding principles of those arraigned against Mr. Narasimha Rao. These forces are hoping that he will adopt a confrontationist approach and oblige them. To their dismay, the Narasimha Rao government is still trying to defuse the crisis.

There was considerable loss of face for the BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party]-VHP [Vishwa Hindu Parishad, World Hindu Council]-RSS [Rashtriya Swayamsewak Sangh] combine after the U.P. [Uttar Pradesh] chief minister, Mr. Kalyan Singh, assured the Supreme Court through an affidavit that no construction activity will be allowed on the acquired land. The state government assured the apex court that kar seva [community voluntary service for temple construction] would be a symbolic one and, in other words, confined to bhajan, kirtan [hymn chanting]. But after this development, which was seen by the hawks in the combine as a major climb down, the question that arose in the minds of the organizers of

the kar seva was how to deal with the large number of kar sevaks assembling in Ayodhya. Having (?whipped) them up to a high pitch of religious frenzy, it was felt necessary to keep up the tempo. To derive political mileage, the dual yatras [marches] were launched—one from Mathura and the other from Varanasi with Ayodhya as the destination. The real destination, as Mr. Arjun Singh said in the Lok Sabha [lower house], was the seat of power in New Delhi.

What cannot be done for the ballot box in a parliamentary democracy is sought to be done through exploitation of religious sentiments. Mr. Indrajit Gupta, veteran CPI [Communist Party of India] leader recalled a comment he had heard in Parliament during the Nehru era. It was: He who has not ridden a donkey should not attempt to ride a tiger. Mr. Gupta's reference to the political party he had in mind was apparent.

Participating in the debate on Ayodhya all non-BJP parties urged the government to act quickly and firmly. Armed with the mandate of the National Integration Council [NIC] of dealing with the situation as deems fit, Mr. Narasimha Rao is keeing his options open. He has to ensure that the NIC's trust that none of the institutions in a parliamentary democracy are denigrated, is implemented. The left parties, who usually oppose the imposition of president's rule, have now given Mr. Narasimha Rao a free hand in relation to Uttar Pradesh. Curiously, the U.P. government has engaged itself in a rather irrelevant debate with the center on the stationing of central paramilitary forces in the state. The Constition itself provides that the Center may station or deploy such forces anywhere in the country in certain situations. Mr. Chavan has emphasised the difference between stationing and deployment of these forces.

MPs Concerned Over Pakistan Nuclear Capability

BK0312163092 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 3 Dec 92

[Text] Members in the Rajya Sabha [upper house] today expressed serious concern over reports that Pakistan has capability to assemble at least seven nuclear bombs at short notice. Cutting across party lines, members spoke about the seriousness of the report and asked the government to immediately make a statement about India's nuclear policy in view of this new development. The matter was raised by Mr. J.P. Mathur, BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party], during zero hour, who said his party is of the view that India should keep her options open to make nuclear bomb. Members said that an all-party meeting should be called to discuss the issue in detail.

Pakistani Agents Said Involved in Kashmir Blasts

BK0312085692 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 3 Dec 92

[Text] In Jammu and Kashmir, preliminary investigations into the three bomb blasts in Bishnah town on Tuesday [2 December] indicate that Pakistani agents were involved in these blasts. Three persons were killed and 16 others injured in the explosions. Security forces have arrested two Pakistani nationals with explosive devices when they were planning to plant the devices on the railway track near Vijaypur railway station.

Punjab Militants Killed by Security Forces

BK0312084892 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0205 GMT 3 Dec 92

[Text] In Punjab, nine militants were killed in separate encounters with security forces yesterday. A large quantity of arms and ammunition were recovered from the encounter sites.

Militant Killed, 36 More Surrender in Punjab

BK0312164292 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 3 Dec 92

[Text] In Punjab, 36 militants, including the so-called deputy chief of a militant outfit, Balvinder Singh Bohar, surrendered to the authorities at Tarn Taran in Amritsar District this afternoon. Our Amritsar correspondent reports that 20 among them, including a woman, surrendered with their arms and ammunition. The Punjab police chief, Mr. K.P.S. Gill, who was present on the occasion said that terrorism would be wiped out from the state in the next few months with the cooperation of the people.

Meanwhile, a dreaded militant, Navodh Singh Dhotian, involved in over 500 killings was shot dead in an encounter with security forces in Mansa District of Punjab today. Carrying a reward of 10 lakh rupees on his head, he was involved in the kidnapping of Romanian diplomat, Mr. Liviu Radu, also.

Another Broker Said Key Player in Scandal

BK0312112692 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 3 Dec 92

[Text] The Joint Parliamentary Committee [JPC] chairman, Mr. Ram Niwas Mirdha, says lesser known Bombay broker Hiten Dalal appears to be a very prominent player in the multi-crore-rupee security scandal. Mr. Mirdha was briefing reporters in New Delhi last night after examining Mr. Dalal and two other brokers—Mr. A.D. Navottam and Mr. J.P. Gandhi—whose names figured in the Janakiraman report. The JPC chairman said Mr. Hiten Dalal accounted for more than 50 percent of the securities and share transactions of the Stanchart [Standard Chartered] Bank. He arranged a loan of 50 crore rupees to the bank from Reliance Industries at an exorbitant interest rate of 36 percent under a ready forward deal. The money was used to purchase the bonds of a public sector undertaking. The JPC chairman said Mr. Hiten Dalal also handled 30 percent of the transactions of Citibank, ANZ Grindleys Bank, and Canfina [India's Canara Bank's finance company]—all involved in the scam. The broker alleged that his personal shares worth more than 210 crore rupees were forcibly taken

away by the Stanchart Bank after the security scandal broke out. Mr. Mirdha disclosed that their depositions highlighted some more shady deals in the Bank of Karad now under liquidation.

Industrialist Arrested in Corruption Case

BK0312133092 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 3 Dec 92

[Text] The Central Bureau of Investigation, CBI, has arrested Mr. Vinay Jacob, industrialist, in the corruption case in which the former Planning Commission member, Mr. V. Krishnamurthi, is the main accused. Mr. Jacob was remanded to CBI custody by a special court in New Delhi today till the 11th of this month. As reported, the CBI has registered a fresh case against Mr. V. Krishnamurthi, his two sons, and Mr. Vinay Jacob for allegedly receiving a huge amount in the form of commissions from multinational companies.

Broker Interrogated About Securities Scam

BK0412085792 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 4 Dec 92

[Text] The Joint Parliamentary Committee—JPC—probing the securities scam yesterday grilled leading Bombay broker Jitendra Ratilal Shroff on his dealings with the UCO Bank [United Commercial Bank]; Mr. Harshad Mehta and the former planning commission member, Mr. V. Krishanmurti, also [sentence as heard]. The broker's name figures in the Janakiraman report on the scandal. Briefing newsmen in New Delhi, the JPC chairman, Mr. R.N. Mirdha, said that Mr. Krishnamurti was present when Mr. Mehta made a presentation on attracting foreign capital to the Finance Ministry in February this year. Mr. Shroff, who also attended the meeting, said that Mr. Krishnamurti joined them later. The chairman said Mr. Shroff, however, denied any political connection. He said he had met the union ministers, Mr. Balram Jakhar and Mr. Ghulam Nabi Azad, at a function in Bangalore last year, but claimed having no further contacts with them. Mr. Shroff also denied the CBI [Central Bureau of Investigation] charge of having purchased 50 crore rupees worth of shares for the UCO Bank to accommodate the needs of Mr. Harshad Mehta. The JPC chairman said he will take up with the Finance Ministry the reported RBI [Reserve Bank of India] circular to all banks to delete certain information in the documents sought by the committee. He said that one of the JPC members had written him a letter and even submitted a fax copy of the RBI directive in this regard.

Commentary Analyzes Trade Ties With Russia

BK2811133792 Delhi All India Radio General Overseas Service in English 1010 GMT 28 Nov 92

[Commentary by H. Bhishampal, Journalist]

[Text] Not very long ago, the rupee payment area accounted for a major chunk of India's foreign trade. Exports to the Soviet Union alone accounted for 16.12 percent of India's exports in 1989-90. In the same year, the Soviet Union's share in India's import basket was 5.76 percent. In 1990-91, the Soviet Union's share in India's total exports was 16.19 percent, the corresponding share in India's imports being 5.91 percent.

A major concern all along has been the terms of trade issue. An immediate problem is the working out of a mechanism for repaying past credits. This was earlier paid through India's balance of trade surpluses. Such repayment obligations are estimated to be of 2,500 million rupees a year. The most important point is whether these would have to be repaid in hard currency or whether a transitory mechanism for repaying these in rupees can be worked out. Effectively, this means that repayments are through exports of Indian products against national rupee earnings. It is impossible to deny the long-run logic of terminating the rupee trade agreement, given the liberalization attempts in both countries.

Trade with the former Soviet republics is at the moment in a mess. About 12,000 to 15,000 million rupees of the Indian exporters is locked up. Since then, rounds of talks between the Indian and Russian delegations took place to resolve these issues. A thorny problem is the technical credit extended by India to the former Soviet Union to cover its bilateral trade gap. It stands at present around 32,000 million rupees, a dizzy height by all standards. Because of the breakdown of the Soviet economy, supplies from that region have dwindled, while every republic has bought as much and is anxious to buy as much as it can from India because the so-elusive free foreign exchange is not involved therein.

The Russians are keen that future trade with India should be in convertible currency, while India is keen to continue rupee trade upto 1993 end. It is not averse to trading in convertible currency with the former Soviet republics. However, India's purchases in four critical areas namely defense, power, coal, and steel will have to be paid for in rupees because the former Soviet Union was under a contractual obligation to supply these items against payment in rupees. Two alternatives are under discussion. One is to continue with rupee trade for 1992 with the provision for its possible extension to 1993. The second is to have rupee trade for some sectors and hard currency trade for others. Under the two track policy, the old Soviet credits and Russian supplies, notable among them, oil, kerosene, fertilizers, metals, and newsprint be repayable in hard currency.

To sum up, the situation at present is not clear. There is no doubt that the disintegration of the former USSR has meant a shattering blow to the most dynamic sector of India's foreign trade, namely the rupee trade. This calls for sweeping away dramatically the cobwebs of all old thinking on India's foreign trade and foreign investment policies.

Official: Reforms Not To Aggravate Unemployment

BK0312083892 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0730 GMT 3 Dec 92

[Text] The deputy chairman of the Planning Commission, Mr. Pranab Mukherjee, has allayed apprehensions that the new economic policies will aggravate the unemployment problem. In his address to a seminar on the implications of the economic restructuring in New Delhi today, he said the agriculture sector, which employs about 70 percent of the total work force in the country, is not likely to be affected by the changes. He said market interventions through administered prices and provision of subsidies in some form or the other will continue for some more time. The technological improvement in agriculture will increase the avenues for more jobs in the rural areas. Mr. Mukherjee did not agree with the view that the reform process will affect employment opportunities in the organized sector. He pointed out that the government has initiated measures to safeguard the interests of workers likely to be affected. This, he said, is being done through training for the redeployment of the surplus manpower. The seminar has been organized by the Institute of Applied Manpower Research.

Paper Hopes Economic Policy Succeeds

BK2911134192 Delhi THE HINDUSTAN TIMES in English 24 Nov 92 p 11

[Article by V.A. Pai Panandiker, director of the Center for Policy Research, New Delhi]

[Text] While it is perhaps too early to say whether the economic reforms are working, quite clearly the gods are working for the reforms and they are on the Finance Minister's side. Nothing could have been more [of a] godsend for the reforms than the monsoons this year which have given a bumper kharif [autumn] crop and with a prospect of equally good rabi [spring season crops].

Despite initial hesitation, clearly the producer class in India is responding fairly well. The agriculturists have already shown how responsive they are given the price incentives and better technology besides the monsoons. A kharif crop of over 100 million tonnes this year is indeed impressive. Expected oilseed crop of 22 million tonnes is a bonanza. The story of cotton and several horticultural crops is no less impressive. Again and again, the Indian agriculturist has shown that he is not slow to respond. And in the case of agriculture, the turnaround is the fastest. Just a season. In fact, it is the Government which has been slow to give the Indian farmer necessary help to move ahead in technology and productivity. Agriculture is the only sector which supports over 60 per cent of our population but it is also a sector where we have tremendous comparative advantage. Unfortunately, the Agriculture Ministry is concerned more with subsidies than with production and productivity.

Compared to the agricultural sector, the industrial sector has not been quick to respond and is still showing signs of uncertainty and confusion. Perhaps, the change towards market economy has come a bit faster than the industrial sector anticipated. Besides, the Government has not yet taken several allied policy steps necessary for the industrial sector to respond better. Creating demand conditions favourable to industry depends a great deal on public investments as well as policies of public financial institutions. Demand for industrial goods is clearly lower and bank credit is still too tight apart from being expensive.

Even so, the export performance in the last three months seems considerably better than anticipated and it is not unlikely that in the coming quarter, the performance is good enough to warrant some glee in the North Block [Finance Ministry]. However, neither the present export policy package nor the procedure make exports attractive enough. Many industrialists still feel that under the present conditions, it is less export and flourish, and more export and perish.

One can clearly see that the most important factor in the Indian economy is our human resource. The entrepreneurial, the technological and managerial skills in India are exceptionally high—almost comparable to the best in the world. However, this rich human resource has had to struggle against the shackles of Indian governmental and bureaucratic controls to get on with production. Some even opted out for greener and much easier pastures in the highly competitive nations in the neighbourhood especially in Southeast Asia, and have done well.

The present reform package does not go far enough to release the creative energies of our productive human resource in India. Neither investments, nor finance, nor management are made easy. These creative productive forces can and are willing to work more for the country and it is the Finance Minister's job to see that creation of wealth is encouraged maximally consistent with national goals and objectives. There is little doubt that this single recourse could pull India out of the economic morass not only of the last two or three years but even of the last 40 odd years.

Who then works against reforms. First of all, a lot of people with vested interests. These are rent-seekers amongst a class of politicians and bureaucrats who have got fat and have left the mass of the people poor and hungry. This rentier class sees tremendous loss of power and erosion of opportunities for making money in the proposed reforms. In the long run they will not win but in the short run, they will make the transition difficult—difficult enough to give the Finance Minister and the economy many a headache.

Secondly, there is simple and pernicious inertia. Several decision-makers who mean no harm or seek rents, simply do not understand the importance of the reforms to move the economy faster. Some do not change by sheer inertia. Others due to ideological hangups. To

change requires a lot of courage especially to question one's opinions. Unfortunately, as both the classical capitalists and classical Marxists have realized, the economy is more complex than any ideology. Inertia and fixed mindsets then become a pernicious drag on the nation's march ahead.

There is thirdly a set of international conditions which are not exactly supportive to the reform regime in India. Whether it is the recession in the US or Europe or the break-up of the Soviet Union, they all constitute a global environment which works against the interest of Indian economic reforms.

Fourthly, the package of governmental policies itself is not adequate enough to meet the needs of the economy. The economic reforms will not work if the policies regarding infrastructure especially energy (including power), telecommunications and transport and communications are not commensurate with the requirements of the reforms. Similarly, the delays in the financial sector and the tax reforms—both direct and indirect—work against the economic reforms. Also India needs better technological inputs not only in agriculture but also in a variety of sectors, especially the industrial and key service sectors like telecommunications.

Fifthly, economic reforms constitute a major political step. Unless the ruling party and even the Opposition parties have a degree of clarity about the objectives of the reforms and the need for significant change, not enough will happen. The ruling party itself must debate whether the economic reforms are in the right direction or not. It needs clarity. Perhaps, the Prime Minister and the Finance Minister need to carry their conviction on this score to the ruling party in greater measure than hitherto. Similar efforts are needed with the Opposition parties, the bureaucracy, the media and the intelligentsia. Ultimately, all economic reforms constitute the heart of politics. That heart needs proper pumping.

And finally the reforms will not work if the Government, especially the Central Government, does not manage the overall economy well. Many of the present ills of the economy owe their origin to mismanagement of the economy in the 80s despite good growth. If the macro management of the economy is not adequate and backed by proper policy and administrative action, the present reforms will not work to the desired extent.

If there is one country undertaking structural reforms at this time which has the best chance of succeeding, it is clearly India. Unlike say Pakistan or Sri Lanka or some of the Latin American or African countries, India has created enormous capabilities, both human and material. India has the good fortune of having an extraordinarily capable entrepreneurial and managerial class. India also has, in relative terms, a large savings rate of about 22 per cent. Perhaps, the capital held abroad by Indians is also large—some estimate it at $100 billion—which even if makes a partial homecoming, could make Indian reforms work. Sooner than later. India does not necessarily need a great deal of foreign investment. Even resident Indians can meet a large part of our even investment needs. In fact, if the Indian industrial class succeeds, the foreign investment will come of its own and in measure adequate enough to meet our needs.

The economic reforms will work. Partly because it represents a historical force which few can stop; they can only slow it down. But quite clearly the present reforms will not give us 7 per cent or more rate of growth. The present reform package will take us to a, perhaps, 6 per cent growth rate. Very good but not good enough to make India into an economic "tiger". Tigerisation of India will probably have to wait until the beginning of the next century. But who knows India has been a land of many miracles. I have seen the miracle of green revolution before my eyes during the mid-sixties. Perhaps we will see a revolution which gets us enough greenbacks to make the transition of the economy to a great Indian, if not an Asian, "tiger".

Iran

Velayati Returns From ICO Meetings, Comments

LD0312175692 Tehran IRIB Television Second Program Network in English 1415 GMT 3 Dec 92

[Text] Iran's Foreign Minister, Mr. Velayati, who had gone to Saudi Arabia to participate in the emergency session of the Islamic Conference Organization [ICO], returned to Tehran today. My colleague who was at the airport to welcome back Mr. Velayati, had an interview with him.

[Unidentified correspondent] Mr. Foreign Minister, what did you accomplish in the ICO meeting in Jeddah, and what was the resolution mainly focused on?

[Velayati] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. From the very beginning we have asked the session to reiterate on the question of time frame. The second important issue was the lifting of arms embargo on Bosnia-Hercegovina. Third, asking the international community, specifically the United Nations, to send peace-keeping forces to the region for prevention of the continuation of Serbs' atrocities against Muslims and Croats in Bosnia-Hercegovina. Fourth, we have asked for more facilities for sending aid and relief to Bosnia-Hercegovina; because we are on the threshold of winter, and life of more than 400,000 Muslims in Bosnia is threatened. We think that we have achieved the majority of goals that we had anticipated to have, from the beginning, and before our trip to Jeddah.

[Correspondent] What was the reaction of the ICO member-states toward the proposed deadline set by the Islamic Republic of Iran for the Security Council to stop the massacre of Muslims and repeated cease-fire violations by the Serbs in Bosnia-Hercegovina?

[Velayati] This paragraph, which had been suggested by the Islamic Republic of Iran, has been adopted unanimously by the ICO. And we think that this is a big victory for the Muslim world. Of course, we have asked for one month, what has been adopted is one and a half.

[Correspondent] In comparison with last year's session in Istanbul, how do you evaluate the Jeddah meeting?

[Velayati] I think the results of this conference, in comparison with the former conference which was held in Istanbul, have been more positive and practical and frank. When we were talking to the foreign ministers of different Muslim countries, we have found out that there is a unanimous request from all Muslim countries from the United Nations to take some positive measures and practical steps for putting an end to this atrocity which has been committed by Serbs in Bosnia-Hercegovina. So, we think that in Jeddah we have taken some important and positive steps ahead.

[Correspondent] Mr Velayati, referring to the ICO meeting held in Islamabad, would you please state your comments on this meeting?

[Velayati] For the first time the ICO meeting at the ministerial level was held in Islamabad with participation of nine countries. Of course, Tajikistan was absent because of internal difficulties that they had. But the total number of ICO now is 10. During our Islamabad meeting we had decided to hold the next ministerial meeting in February and we had decided to have the next ICO summit in Ankara in the first half of June. And also we had decided to be more active in the economic field. And also we had decided to promote our cooperation in different fields, specifically in infrastructure—roads and transportation, telecommunications, energy and other different issues. We think now in West Asia, Central Asia, Middle East and Persian Gulf a new arrangement, regional arrangement or cooperation, has emerged which could affect the security, tranquillity and stability in this part of the world, which is very sensitive. And we are determined to help peace and stability and economic cooperation in this part of the world.

[Correspondent] Thank you very much.

[Velayati] You are most welcome.

Discusses ICO Resolution on Bosnia

LD0312173392 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1530 GMT 3 Dec 92

[Text] The foreign ministers of the member states of the Islamic Conference Organization [ICO] have adopted a resolution in which they once again called for the use of force to restore national sovereignty to the Islamic state of Bosnia-Hercegovina.

Foreign Minister Velayati reported this news on his return today from the extraordinary session of the foreign ministers of the ICO member states in Jeddah. He added: The session was convened on Iran's proposal and more than 90 percent of our demands were realized. He said: The Iranian delegation proposed a deadline for the withdrawal of Serbian forces from Bosnia. According to this, the ICO, in its final resolution, called on the Security Council to investigate the situation in Bosnia before 25 Dey [15 January 1993] and if the Serbs do not comply with the Security Council resolutions, resort to force to repel the Serbs' aggression in accordance with Article 42 of Chapter 8 of the UN Charter.

Our country's foreign minister, noting that the Islamic states comprise a quarter of the members of the United Nations, said: The Islamic Republic of Iran has called on the Islamic states' foreign ministers to clear the way for sending economic aid and forces to Bosnia-Hercegovina by exerting political pressure on the United Nations. Our country's foreign minister also said that in the near future he will be conferring with Russian authorities on stemming Serbian aggression in Bosnia.

[Tehran IRNA in English at 1621 GMT on 3 December, in a Tehran- datelined report, notes: "The Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) today called for the use of force to restore sovereignty in the Muslim Republic of Bosnia-Hercegovina. Approving a 29-point resolution the foreign ministers of the 50-member OIC called on the United Nations to lift the ongoing arms embargo against that Muslim state and prepare appropriate grounds for providing it with arms to carry out its legitimate defence against any aggressions. At its Jeddah meet, the OIC admitted three new members, namely Albania, Kyrgyzstan and Zanzibar. Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati on his return from Jeddah today called the results of the OIC emergency meet as 'positive'. The resolution set the January 15 as a 'deadline' for full implementation of the United Nations resolutions on Bosnia. If it is not fulfilled, the Islamic states will consider the Bosnian government's appeal for help, the resolution said. Velayati said the emergency meeting was held at the proposal of the Islamic Republic of Iran in which the member countries stressed the need for an ultimate action to stop mass killings of Muslims in the republic.

["The OIC foreign ministers called on the United Nations to set up an international tribunal to examine the crimes committed in the Muslim country and bring those involved in murdering the defenceless people to justice. The resolution expressed readiness to the UN secretary-general to send humanitarian aid and dispatch military force to that republic for peaceful missions. The OIC called for declaration of a 'safe haven' and securing 'safe passages' to humanitarian airlifts to the areas under siege.

["Velayati said that in view of the abortive efforts of the United Nations and other international forums in halting the Serbs aggressions in Bosnia, the meeting had an 'explicit stance' and the member countries were unanimous on the need for rapid restoration of sovereignty in that republic."]

Interest 'Purely Humanitarian'

LD0412124192

[Editorial Report] Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian at 0400 GMT on 4 December carries a 24-minute program on the fighting in Bosnia-Hercegovina. An unidentified female announcer gives highlights of the ministerial meeting of the Islamic Conference Organization (ICO), which concluded in Joddah this week.

The announcer says that although Iran was the first country to call for the setting up of the Joddah meeting, foreign radio stations, in their "propaganda," have not referred to Iran's initiative.

She then elaborates on Iran's stances that call on the United Nations to stop the massacre of Muslims in the area and to lift the arms embargo on Bosnians. She reiterates Iran's argument that the Serbs, having access to the enormous stockpiles of weapons of the former Yugoslavia's army, have an immense arms superiority over the Muslims and the UN arms embargo, imposed by the UN Security Council, in fact serves the interests of the Serbs and places the Muslims at a tremendous disadvantage.

She then cites the ICO meeting's deliberations on that issue and adds that even foreign radio broadcasts, serving the interests of "arrogance," have admitted to the fact that the Serbs are committing atrocities and the UN Commission on Human Rights has also said that Serbs resort to such acts as ethnic cleansing.

The announcer then says that the Islamic Republic of Iran's interest in the Muslims of Bosnia is purely humanitarian and stems from Iranian Government's Islamic obligations. However, foreign radio stations, who invariably distort facts, insinuate that the Iranian Government's stance is aggressive, expansionist, and hostile to the West.

U.S. Criticism of High Tech Imports Viewed

NC0312160692 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 24 Nov 92 p 2

[Editorial: "What Lies Behind U.S. Moves Against Iran"]

[Text] In a new political offensive against the Islamic Republic of Iran, the United States has organized a secret meeting with its allies to forge a policy on high-tech exports to Iran. This is the latest in a series of attempts the U.S. has undertaken to isolate Iran and force it into compliance with its hegemonistic policies.

During the past decade our every move to upgrade our technology and defence capabilities has been interpreted by the U.S. as a potential threat to the security and stability of the region and ultimately to world peace. And this is while this country has not committed a single act of aggression, not violated a single law. On the contrary, ever-since our revolution triumphed, we have continuously been bullied, provoked, and forced into such undesirable positions which our leaders every time have tried to overcome through peaceful means.

This latest source of bother to the U.S. seems to originate from the purchase of two Russian submarines to safeguard our territories from hostile intentions. Considering the volatile nature of the region and the fact that we are surrounded by conflicts and skirmishes at most of our borders, deploying a couple submarines in our Navy should seem the most logical act even by pacifist standards. It is, indeed, ironic that the U.S., the very same country which at one time (before the revolution) tried to inculcate a siege-mentality in our psyche and dump its surplus of military hardware in our land to protect us against the threat of communism, should now push so hard to deprive our country of such a modest weapon procurement. Is this not a sign of America's hypocrisy that it arms its friends in the Middle East to the teeth while it expects us to remain defenceless and vulnerable in a politically vulnerable region? As a nation which has once been a direct victim of a whimsical aggression by a mad man, do we not deserve the right to be doubly cautious and apprehensive?

It is fortunate that certain countries in the "Group-7" recognize our unique position and acknowledge our performance a responsible and law-abiding nation. These countries have at times resisted the pressures of the United States with respect to the Islamic Republic of Iran as they see the selfish streak behind the superpower's claim to guardianship of world peace. They rightly realize that the U.S. is more concerned about the booming business being conducted between Iran and other industrialized countries like Japan and Germany.

After the break of ties with America, following the Islamic Revolution, the government in Iran tried to diversify contacts and trade with the outside world in a bid to eliminate our dependency on one single country. The result is a healthy, mutually beneficial relationship with certain countries which, while technologically advanced, are free from the air of arrogance borne by the U.S. And this is no doubt the source of America's anger.

We, however, cherish these relationships and hope that our partners would aid us in our drive towards dignity and independence by relying more on their own judgements and on facts, than American hypes and propaganda. This would in the long-run serve to protect their interests while helping to counter the egotistical tendencies of the remaining superpower.

Shift in Turkish Stance on U.S. Possible

NC0412130392 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 18 Nov 92 p 14

[A. Salah commentary: "Is Turkey Trying To Distance Itself From The United States?"]

[Text] Many people believe that with the latest elections in the United States and the Democrats coming to power in the White House, the friendly relations between the United States and Turkey will be somewhat overshadowed and Clinton's excessive interference will motivate Turkish echelons to become more protective of their national interests. Likely too is that in some cases there will be a clash of interests.

These circles consider the timing of the Ankara conference of foreign ministers from Syria, Turkey, and the Islamic Republic of Iran, to discuss and decide on issues concerning northern Iraq, to confirm the above statement. They consider the timing of the conference to be directly linked with Clinton's election and his remarks on issues concerning Turkey.

As soon as it transpired that the great hero of the Persian Gulf (Bush!) was facing defeat in the Persian Gulf, Turkish officials became displeased. Their reaction was evident from the outset, when the results of the first opinion polls on a possible defeat for Bush were announced. Turgut Ozal openly declared: I am extremely apprehensive about the U.S. elections, because Bush is my friend and has a special interest in Turkish problems. His replacement may create problems in the extraordinary relations between the two countries.

Turkish politicians are said to be apprehensive about Clinton replacing Bush because the Democrat Party had announced that if it won, Turkey would be expelled from Cyprus, which would be liberated from the Turks' clutches.

Following Clinton's preliminary utterances, the Turkish politicians, who had earlier stated that if the Democrat won they could foresee difficult days for Turkey, decided that they should begin to prepare to confront such difficulties.

So as soon as Clinton won, Ankara called for a tripartite conference of its neighbors to solve the problems of northern Iraq on a regional level, which, news sources say, elicited the ire of the United States.

On principle, the Turkish public believes the West is fanning the flames of the problems of the Kurdish-inhabited areas in Turkey, especially the United States and the "Poised Hammer" forces stationed in southeast Turkey. They believe they are not there to protect the Kurds of northern Iraq, but are involved in a plot against Turkey's territorial integrity.

The people of Turkey have a reason for such assumptions, because of recent remarks by U.S. officials on the Kurdish Workers Party, the PKK, asking Turkish officials to exercise restraint in their approach to this party. They even warned openly that not all bridges of contact with the PKK should be destroyed, because this organization might have to be present at a future negotiating table.

In such circumstances, a certain leniency can be perceived in Ankara's political circles, which formerly resisted the wishes of most Turkish people for the allied Western forces to leave Turkey. The renewal of the tenure of the Poised Hammer forces seems increasingly unlikely.

Turkish politicians have apparently realized the truth of the observations of the second president of Turkey Ismet Inonu that after 50 years of service to the United States, it can be concluded: "Solidarity with the superpowers is tantamount to sleeping in the same bed as an animal."

Those close to Suleyman Demirel remark that he fears the United States taking umbrage against Turkish politicians, which may result in a military coup. He wants to solve Turkey's internal problems and protect its national interests without jeopardizing U.S. interests.

It was in this context that Turkey hosted the tripartite Ankara conference—so that regardless of the session's outcome and deliberations, he might drive home to the U.S. President that if there is a lack of support for the Ankara government, there is a major possibility of a regional solution to problems.

This is why, at the end of the tripartite conference in Ankara, Demirel remarked: "By convening this session, we have shown the world powers that the region is not under their will and influence."

It should not remain unsaid that propaganda in Turkish publications, which until recently commented on the Islamic Republic of Iran and Syria as supporters of the partitioning of Iraq and of the Turkish Kurds, has been proved fallacious.

The latest independence-seeking posture of the Turkish politicians does not mean they have broken away from the United States, but it can be interpreted as a gesture to exert pressure on the new leaders of the White House for eliciting greater support for Ankara. This posture should not delude the country's Muslims as to the true laicist nature of the Turkish politicians.

Pakistan

Reportage on Nuclear Capabilities, Weapons

Technical Capability Confirmed

BK0312100892 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 3 Dec 92

[Text] A spokesman of the Pakistan Foreign Office yesterday confirmed that Islamabad has acquired the technical capability for producing nuclear weapons. AIR's Islamabad correspondent reports that the spokesman also denied the U.S. Senator's—Mr. Larry Pressler's—claim that Pakistan has manufactured at least seven nuclear bombs which can be assembled at an hour's notice.

Meanwhile, our correspondent reports that the Indian high commissioner in Islamabad has described the Pakistan Government's advice to its citizens not to travel to India as highly regrettable. The high commissioner said that Pakistanis visiting India do not face any kind of danger.

Washington has expressed serious concern over Pakistan's nuclear capability. A U.S. State Department spokesman said that American officials are still unable to certify that Pakistan has no nuclear bomb. The spokesman was responding to Islamabad's denial that it possesses no atomic bombs.

Possession of Atomic Bombs Denied

BK0312162492 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1600 GMT 3 Dec 92

[Text] In Islamabad today, a Foreign Office spokesman categorically denied that Pakistan possessed seven atomic bombs, as alleged in the statements attributed to U.S. Senator Pressler. The spokesman added that the senator's remarks should be viewed against the backdrop of the increasing criticism of his amendment which has been recognized as a bad law since it is (?country)-specific and blatantly discriminatory.

'Reverse Engineering' of Plant Parts

BK0312103992 Islamabad THE NATION in English 3 Dec 92 p 12

[Excerpts] Ottawa—Mr. Gohar Ayub Khan, Speaker, National Assembly, has advised Indian leaders to learn a lesson from history, and let the people of Occupied Jammu and Kashmir exercise their inalienable right of self-determination as recommended by the UN Security Council.

He was delivering the keynote address at a well-organised $80.00- a-plate dinner hosted Tuesday night by Canada-Pakistan Association [CPA] at the National Arts Centre to commemorate its 25th anniversary. Included among his audience were: John L. Fraser, Speaker, House of Commons of the Canadian Parliament, several Ministers and prominent parliamentarians, Pak High Commissioner, Hakimullah Khan and senior members of his staff office-bearers of CPA, a large number of expatriate Pakistanis along with a sprinkling of Arabs, Sikhs and prominent Canadian citizens. [passage omitted]

While appreciating Canada's help in Pakistan's development efforts, Mr Khan noted that Canada has stopped the supply of spare parts for the power-generating nuclear plant in Karachi. However, he informed the cheering attendees that Pakistan was manufacturing those spares for KANUPP [Karachi Nuclear Power Plant] by adopting "reverse engineering" process.

Making a few departures from his written speech, he strongly refuted the oft-repeated Indian allegations of Pakistan interference in the Indian Punjab. "India has erected barbed wire fence from Jammu in the north to Rajasthan in the south along the entire international border, blocking all possible ways for cross-border infiltrations. Under such tigh security, how can the Sikh freedom- fighters cross into Pakistan to receive arms and training.

He advised India to take a cue from recent history and allow the people of Jammu and Kashmir their right of self-determination. "The will of the people," he noted, "cannot be suppressed for ever." If a superpower like the former Soviet Union can be brought down to its knees, India, with far less resources and much weaker military might cannot withstand the pressures generated by indigenous freedomstruggle in Jammu and Kashmir. The deployment of over 400,000 troops in Kashmir and 500,000 in the Punjab has not only failed but also has put unbearable strains on Indian economy, which can buckle sooner than expected.

The Speaker of the House of Commons of the Canadian Parliament, Mr John L. Fraser, also spoke on the occasion, echoing some of the sentiments expressed by Gohar Ayub Khan vis-a vis long struggle of the Afghans which resulted in the defeat of the Soviet army; and Canadian-Pakistan economic cooperation. However, he made no reference to Kashmir and Candian embargo on the supply of spares for KANNUPP.

Bhutto Plane Delayed, 'Bomb Threat' Cited

BK0312144692 Hong Kong AFP in English 1404 GMT 3 Dec 92

[Text] Multan, Pakistan, Dec 3 (AFP)—Pakistani opposition leader Benazir Bhutto missed an important rendezvous in her ongoing anti-government campaign Thursday because of a flight change that she blamed on official interference. Bhutto failed to arrive in this major Punjab city, the cradle of shrines of Moslem saints, to lead the PDA caravan.

Other leaders of her Peoples Democratic Alliance (PDA), which is waging a campaign to remove Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, left here without her on a 500-kilometre (310-mile) journey.

PDA officials said the Pakistan International Airlines [PIA] flight on which Bhutto was to travel from her home town of Karachi had been intentionally delayed, forcing her to postpone her trip after a long wait at the airport.

Bhutto blamed the government for "a deliberate and cruel attempt" to prevent her participation. "But how long the government can continue to do it?"

"Our struggle will continue until a government of national consensus is installed and the corrupt regime is removed," she vowed, adding that she had instructed other PDA leaders to continue the march and that she would take a Friday morning flight and join the procession en route to Lahore.

PIA sources in Karachi first said that the flight had been delayed due to bad weather but later said it had been held up after an anonymous bomb threat.

After a thorough search of the place no bomb was found and the plane was expected to leave later in the evening, the sources said.

Earlier, airport officials here said the plane was held up at Karachi airport because of poor visibility at Multan. But the PDA strongly disputed the claim. Though the weather was slightly foggy with subdued sunshine, a PIA flight from Islamabad later landed at the airport.

Several thousand disappointed Bhutto supporters paraded through the streets, chanting anti-government slogans for about four hours before converging in the city centre.

PDA leaders addressed the crowd after which a 40-vehicle caravan set off on a three-day journey to Sharif's home town of Lahore.

Multan's main government transport terminal looked idle with buses guarded by the police and employees seen playing cards while many in search of transport were stranded. No buses and vans were entering or leaving the city. But the overall police presence in the city was not heavy and there was no interference with the opposition marchers.

The vehicular procession marks the third phase of the PDA campaign launched by Bhutto on November 18 with an attempt to lead a march on the capital which was foiled by the police.

In the second phase, Bhutto and other PDA leaders undertook a cross-country train journey to mobilise public support for new elections.

About a dozen public meetings are to be addressed by the PDA leaders on their way to Lahore, where the opposition is to announce Saturday its next move.

Sharif has been running a parallel mass contact campaign and attracting large crowds.

Hopping from place to place by helicopter or in his special Boeing jet, the premier told public gatherings Wednesday that the opposition campaign had fizzled out because people rejected their "negative and agitional politics."

President Ghulam Ishaq Khan, who enjoys discretionary power to dissolve legislative assemblies, has also criticised the PDA campaign.

The army has not shown any signs of public uneasiness over what is seen as the worst political confrontation since Sharif took office in late 1990.

His government has dismissed the PDA demand for fresh elections, advising the opposition to wait for voting due in 1995, and proposals for talks between the two sides have foundered so far amid a joint refusal to compromise.

Afghans Urged To Ensure Safety of Russian POWs

BK0212164092 Hong Kong AFP in English 1541 GMT 2 Dec 92

[Excerpts] Islamabad, Dec 2 (AFP)—Pakistan has asked all Afghan factions to ensure the safety of the Russian prisoners of war after one dissident group threatened to kill those it had, a Foreign Office spokesman here said Wednesday.

The fundamentalist Hezb-e-Eslami of radical mojahedin leader Golboddin Hekmatyar recently warned that if Moscow continued to print Afghan currency its commanders would kill the POWs, captured during the 10-year Soviet military occupation of Afghanistan, which ended in 1989. [passage omitted]

Asked what steps Pakistan was contemplating to prevent the possible killings of an unspecified number of Russians, the spokesman said Pakistan had demanded the release of POWs held by various groups "as soon as possible."

Pending their release the prisoners should be treated in a humanitarian way, he said. "This has been conveyed to all groups in a very clear, unambiguous and forceful manner," he added.

The Russian Embassy here has expressed concern over the Hezb threats.